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FROM THE GIFT OF

WILLIAM ENDICOTT, JR.

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**THE KINGDOM OF KIPPEN:
ITS HISTORY AND TRADITIONS.**



THE HOLE OF SNEATH, KIPPE ..

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THE KINGDOM OF KIPPEN:

ITS HISTORY AND TRADITIONS.

BY

WILLIAM CHRYSTAL.

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CONTENTS.

	<i>Page</i>
AGRICULTURE—	
Advancement in Husbandry, - - -	42
Agricultural Machinery, - - -	44
Ayrshire Cattle, - - -	46
Chemistry, - - -	46
Famous Clydesdales, - - -	45
Owners of Farms, - - -	46
The Farmer, - - -	41
The Farm Servant, - - -	41
The Laird, - - -	40
ANCIENT ROADS, - - -	102
BEDDAL'S HALF-ACRE, THE, - - -	172
BLACK MAIL, - - -	162
BOQUHAN—	
Proprietors of Boquhan, - - -	182
The Battle of Ballochlearn, - - -	182
BOTANY OF THE PARISH, - - -	141
BOUNDARIES, - - -	17
BUCHLYVIE—	
Banking, - - -	74
Buchlyvie Agricultural Association, -	74
Buchlyvie and District Ploughing Society,	76
Buchlyvie Curling Club, - - -	78
Buchlyvie, Fintry, and Vale of Menteith Horse-Breeding Association, -	76
Industry, - - -	78
Ministerial, - - -	78
Places of Interest, - - -	74
Public Hall, - - -	78

	<i>Page</i>
CIVIC RULERS—	
County Council, - - - - -	83
Parish Council, - - - - -	81
"Provosts," - - - - -	80
School Board, - - - - -	88
CORONATION OF KING EDWARD VII.—	
Local Rejoicings, - - - - -	174
COVENANTERS, THE—	
A Skirmish with Soldiers, - - - - -	158
Conventicles Still Held, - - - - -	165
Drumclog, - - - - -	160
"Indulged" Ministers, - - - - -	159
Love for Former Minister, - - - - -	156
Open Defiance, - - - - -	160
The "Curate" and the Crying Children, - - - - -	156
"The Preaching Howe," - - - - -	157
The Solemn League and Covenant, - - - - -	155
Ure of Shirlarton, - - - - -	158
A Good Man and True, - - - - -	170
A Narrow Escape, - - - - -	167
Bothwell Brig, - - - - -	162
Covenanters Routed, - - - - -	168
Death of Ure, - - - - -	169
More Settled Times, - - - - -	168
Mrs. Ure Arrested, - - - - -	167
Ure Joins the West Men, - - - - -	161
Ure's Possessions Forfeited, - - - - -	164
Ure Returns from Ireland, - - - - -	166
DEIL O' BUCHLYVIE, THE, - - - - -	97
ECCLESIASTICAL RECORDS, - - - - -	106
A Seceder, - - - - -	122
Chapel of Dundaff, - - - - -	112
Clergy Roll of Kippen—	
Free Church, - - - - -	122
Parish Church, - - - - -	120
Curfew Bell, - - - - -	128
Football Playing on Sundays, - - - - -	128
Kippen Kirk Lands Given to Earl of Mar, - - - - -	114
Modern Religious Episode, - - - - -	124

CONTENTS.

vii.

	<i>Page</i>
ECCLESIASTICAL RECORDS (Continued)—	
New Kirk Site, - - - - -	116
Parish Church at Kippen, - - -	107
Second Parish Church—	
Church Tower Clock, - - -	117
Communion Cups, - - -	118
Old Church Bell, - - -	117
The Minister and His Pigs, - - -	123
Third Parish Church—	
Its Clock and Bell, - - -	118
Three Chapels in Kippen, - - -	116
United Free Church, - - -	119
GALBRAITHS OF BLACKHOUSE AND	
LITTLEKERSE, - - - - -	171
GEOLOGY OF KIPPEN PARISH, - -	144
INNS AND PUBLIC HOUSES, - - -	83
KEIR HILLS, - - - - -	136
Brochs at Coldoch and Drum, - -	138
Their Builders, - - - - -	137
What were Keirs ? - - - - -	138
KINGDOM OF KIPPEN, THE, - - -	25
King of Kippen, - - - - -	26
“Oot o’ the World and into Kippen,” -	27
KIPPEN RAILWAY STATION, - - -	29
LIGHTING SCHEME, - - - - -	35
LOCAL FAIRS—	
Balgair, - - - - -	51
Corn Market, - - - - -	52
St. Mauvæ’s, - - - - -	51
The “Feeing Fair,” - - - - -	53
LOCAL INDUSTRIES—	
Brick and Tile Works, - - - - -	38
Creameries, - - - - -	38
Malting and Distilling, - - - - -	36
Meal Mills, - - - - -	37
Miscellaneous, - - - - -	39
Tanning and Tambouring, - - - - -	35
Vineries, - - - - -	38
Weaving, - - - - -	36

	<i>Page</i>
LOCAL WORTHIES—	
A Socrates of the " Kingdom," - - -	95
Isaac M'Gregor, a Sheriff Court Witness, -	84
A Practical Joke, - - - -	88
Meat and Mustard, - - - -	96
Sandy Munchausen, - - - -	91
Clash-Brae Bogles, - - -	94
Ploo'in' Extraordinary, - - -	92
Sooming Episode, - - - -	93
Twa Verra Brithers, - - - -	90
LOCH LEGGAN—	
Crooks of Broich, - - - -	184
The Bloody Mires, - - - -	185
MINERAL SPRINGS, - - - -	101
NAME OF PARISH, - - - -	18
Baronies, - - - -	19
PARISH CEMETERY, - - - -	101
PEAT MOSS, - - - -	139
Reclaiming the Land, - - - -	140
Roman Relics Found, - - - -	140
PLACE-NAMES OF THE PARISH, - - -	20
POPULATION and RATEABLE VALUATION, -	24
PRINCE CHARLIE—	
Crossing the Ford of Frew, - - -	126
PROPOSED CANAL, - - - -	124
PUBLIC HALLS—	
Gillespie Memorial Hall, - - -	82
Kippen Public Hall, - - - -	82
ROB ROY—	
Swordsmanship, - - - -	129
The Abduction of Jean Key, - - -	129
The Herriship of Kippen, - - -	127
SHIRGARTON MANSION HOUSE, - - -	171
SITUATION, - - - -	17
SMUGGLING—	
A Man-of-War's Trick, - - - -	149
Dougal's Tower, - - - -	151
Excise Officers' Dangers, - - -	150
The Sma' Still and Sma' Keg, - - -	148
The Last of the Race, - - - -	151

CONTENTS.

ix.

	Page
SOCIAL CONDITIONS, - - - - -	50
Social Changes, - - - - -	51
SOIL—	
Carse, - - - - -	47
Dryfield, - - - - -	48
Old Yew Tree at Arngomery, - - - - -	48
STAGE-COACHES, - - - - -	105
VILLAGE COMMON, - - - - -	79
Dasher Common, - - - - -	79
Shirgarton Common, - - - - -	80
VILLAGE CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS—	
Curling Clubs, - - - - -	62
Cardross and Kepp, - - - - -	64
Kippen Curling Club, - - - - -	63
Gargunnock Farmers' Club, - - - - -	54
Horticultural Societies, - - - - -	67
Kippen and District Burns Club, - - - - -	69
Kippen Highland Gathering, - - - - -	71
Kippen Parish Hearse Society, - - - - -	56
Kippen Reading and Recreation Club, - - - - -	72
Ploughing Societies—	
Arnprior and District Ploughing Society, - - - - -	65
The Kippen and District Farmers' Club, - - - - -	66
VILLAGE GREEN—	
A "Tiff" with the Laird, - - - - -	80
WATER SUPPLY, - - - - -	34

ILLUSTRATIONS.

Frontispiece—

✓THE HOLE OF SNEATH, BOQUHAN GLEN.

	<i>Facing Page</i>
✓BELFRY, OLD PARISH CHURCH, - - -	120
✓BRIG O' FREW, THE, - - - - -	128
✓CAULDHAME, - - - - -	104
✓CROSS, THE, KIPPEN, - - - - -	56
✓DOUGAL'S TOWER, KIPPEN, - - - - -	152
✓FORE ROAD, KIPPEN, - - - - -	88
✓KIPPEN FROM THE SOUTH, - - - - -	17
/ MAIN STREET, BUCHLYVIE, Looking East, -	112
✓ Do., do., Looking West, -	78
✓MAIN STREET, KIPPEN, - - - - -	25
✓PARISH CHURCH, KIPPEN, - - - - -	40
✓PREACHING HOWE, THE, - - - - -	157
✓UNITED FREE CHURCH, KIPPEN, - - -	48
✓UNITED FREE CHURCH, STATION ROAD, BUCHLYVIE, - - - - -	82

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KIPPEN, FROM THE SOUTH.

THE KINGDOM OF KIPPEN:

ITS HISTORY AND TRADITIONS.



SITUATION.

THE VILLAGE OF KIPPEN, otherwise known as the "Kingdom of Kippen," is situated on an eminence overlooking the Valley of the Forth, and commands upwards of thirty miles of landscape view. Within three minutes' walk of the Cross of Kippen, on the road to Music Hall, and about thirty yards from the first house in that hamlet, is to be found one of the most extensive and beautiful views in Great Britain. On the right, rising like towers in the valley, we have the three crags, viz., Craigforth, Abbey Craig, and Stirling Castle; in the distance, Demyat and the Ochil Range; and sweeping towards the left, the wild heaths of Uam Var, Ben Voirlich, Bed Ledi, Ben A'an, the rugged cliffs of Ben Venue, Ben More, and Ben Lomond; while lying spread out at our feet is the Carse of Stirling, which merges into and includes the Vale of Menteith. The scene, as far as the eye can reach, is classic. There are associations of thrilling historic interest connected with the district, while Sir Walter Scott has added creations to it of romance and song which will never die.

BOUNDARIES.

SCOTLAND was divided into parishes during the twelfth century. The parish of Kippen lies chiefly in Stirlingshire, but in different places is intersected by portions of Perthshire, which run across it from north to south for nearly a third part of the parish. The

boundaries of the County, especially in this parish, are somewhat perplexing and eccentric, showing something like a zig-zag, or forked appearance. An insulated portion of Perthshire, about two miles long and half-a-mile broad, embraces a part of the village. A portion of the Manse, *e.g.*, the kitchen part, is in Perthshire, the remainder being in Stirlingshire, thus enabling the dinner to be cooked in Perthshire and partaken of in Stirlingshire. The greatest length of the parish is about eight miles, and its breadth from two to five miles. The river Forth is the boundary on the north, dividing it from the parishes of Port of Menteith, Norrieston, Kilmadock, and Kincardine. On the west, Kippen marches with the parish of Drymen ; on the south with Balfron ; and on the east, the burn of Boquhan forms the boundary between it and Gargunnoch. Descending from the rock of Ballochleam (Gaelic—*Beallach-leum* signifies “the gorge-leap;” *Beallach* is an upland gorge or rising pass) the burn meets with the red sandstone, through which it has opened a passage, and wrought its soft materials into a number of curious forms resembling the wells and cauldrons of the Devon. After running through the beautiful and picturesque Glen Boquhan, equalled only by the Trossachs, and through which the proprietor has made extensive and agreeable walks, the burn discharges itself into the Forth at the Ford of Frew, and forms the natural boundary of the parish in the south and east.

NAME OF PARISH.

IN old records Kippen is sometimes spelt Kippan, Kippene, Kippone, Kyppane. The derivation of the name, given in the old “Statistical Account,” from *Ceap*, English cape, meaning a headland or promontory, is likely enough, as it describes pretty well the appearance of the parish, jutting out into the carse land below. At the same time, it might be derived from the Gaelic *Giopan* (pronounced Kippan), which means the stumps or roots of trees, and in that case it would refer to the

remains of the forest which undoubtedly at an early period covered both the high and low lands of the parish. To support this derivation, we have places in this and neighbouring parishes, such as Kep or Keppoch, which obviously means the "field of the stumps," and, more distinctly still, Kepdarroch, "the field of the stumps of oak trees." Inverkip, in Renfrewshire, is explained by Colonel Robertson, in his "Gaelic Topography," as "the confluence of the roots of stumps."

BARONIES.

The Parish of Kippen was sub-divided into eleven Baronies or properties, belonging to gentlemen entitled to call themselves Barons. Regarding the origin of the title Baron there have been differences of opinion. Derivations of the word have been sought for in the Celtic, Teutonic, and Hebrew languages, but it would appear that the term Baron was introduced by the Normans into this country, which points, therefore, to a conclusion favourable to a Romanee origin. From an early period Barons were distinguished as greater and lesser, and, according to old Scotch law, the greater Barons had certain rights relative to and direct from the King himself, which were confirmed by Crown Charters. These rights embraced not merely civil but criminal jurisdiction, to which all the people or inhabitants of the particular Baronies were amenable. The lesser Barons held their lands from the greater by a tenure of military service, and it was to the lesser Barons that the eleven gentlemen in this district belonged. Modern legislation has, however, obstructed the exercise of Baronial rights: indeed, by the 20th Act of George II. the rights of Baronies became obsolete, although by a subsequent Act, in the reign of George III., they were permitted for the encouragement of fisheries on the sea coast.

The following are the names of the eleven Baronies within the parish:—Glentirran, Dasher or Deshour, Shirgarton, Broich, Arnmanuel, Arnbeg, Arnmore, Arnfinlay, Garden, Buchlyvie, and Arnprior.

PLACE-NAMES OF THE PARISH.

IT is generally accepted that, in giving names to places, our forefathers obviously endeavoured to express the nature of the situation and its most prominent features, its shape or its size, its relative position, high or low, in mountain or valley, the climate or the vegetation by which it was surrounded. We have in the names of places in the parish, therefore, descriptions or verbal pictures of the object. With this general fact before us, let us glance at the etymology of some of the names—

BOQUHAN—Gaelic *Mocuan*, plain of the sea or ocean. It might also be from the Gaelic *Both*, meaning a “house” or “dwelling;” and Gaelic *Càn*; Scots kane; Eng. rent or tribute: hence Boquhan would be the place where the tribute was received or kept. Mr. Johnston, in his “Place-Names of Stirlingshire,” suggests *Both-bhan*, the Gaelic for “white house,” which is also possible.

DRUM—Gaelic *Drom*, a ridge.

GRIBBLOCH—Corruption of Garbhlach, the rough place—rugged country, or rough and warm, lying to the sun. It is said that Gribbloch was a favourite place of meeting in Covenanted times. There is a watershed on the lands of Gribbloch, a portion of the water going to the eastern, another to the western ocean.

LOCH LEGGAN—The lake in the small hollow.

BALGAIR—Gaelic *Bal*, contracted from Baile, originally a home, a town, or farm; the second part, “gair,” may be the Gaelic *gearr*, short, hence “short-town” or “farm;” or it may be *Bal-a-gabhair*, meaning “the goat-farm.”

CASTLEHILL—The upper part of the village of Kippen is known by the name of Castlehill. Ages ago a castle stood midway in the Burn Loan, on the south side, about thirty yards from the roadway

—the Castle of the “Kingdom”—hence the name Castlehill.

OXHILL may have reference to the manner in which our forefathers sometimes computed pieces of land, calling thirteen or fourteen acres an ox gang.

SPITTAL—There are many places named Spittal throughout the county, the name being derived from Hospital. Spittal means of the Templars, and hospitals were attached to the religious houses in the Middle Ages. The first of the Spittals was a son of Sir Maurice Buchanan of Buchanan, in the time of Alexander III. Having entered the Order of Knights Hospitallers, he was called in the Scots dialect Spittal.

CAUSEWAYHEAD—French, *Chaussée*, the head or termination of the Roman Road.

CAULDHAME—Cold, bleak place. The erection of the houses dates from the beginning of the nineteenth century, but the place was known as Cauldhame before the houses were built.

MUSIC HALL—Long the residence of the piper or fiddler, first called Piper’s Hall, afterwards Music Hall. In ancient times every village in Scotland had its piper, who was employed not only on festive occasions, but during the season of harvest, to play behind the reapers. Hamilton, in his “Elegy on the Piper of Kilbarchan,” alludes to the practice:—

“ Or wha will cause our shearers shear,
Wha will bend up the braes of Weir.”

GLENTIRAN—The glen of the small fort, not unlikely referring to what we know as the Keir Hill of Glentirran. It may refer to the fortification up the shoulder of the hill, south-west from the Keir Hill, circular in form, with a number of trees growing within the space; but more probably it is *Gleann Tighearn*, the Chief’s Glen, as it was here where the chief Baron lived.

DASHER, from Gaelic *Deas*, "south," having a southern exposure, and *ar* or *air*, "field," more properly a "battlefield;" hence "Southfield" or "South-battlefield." In old charters the lands along the north shore of Loch Tay, which thus lie to the south, are called Disher.

SHIRGARTON—The last part of the word is certainly Gart or Gort (old English, Garth, modern English, Garden), which originally signifies corn, and then an enclosed or tilled field. Shir (Gaelic, *Siar*) is west, so that Shirgarton would mean the west field. As terms of direction are relative, it would probably be thus called Westfield, in relation to Dasher. *Gortan* is the Teutonic *Gort*, with the Gaelic denomination, *an*, but in its Gaelic form it does not mean an "enclosure," but a "green sward," hence Shirgarton will mean "West-green."

BROICH, Gaelic *Braigh*; Scottice, brae, a bank, or acclivity. In front of the old house of Broich there was a fosse or ditch.

ARNMANUEL—The word Arn, Gaelic *Earran*, which occurs so often as a portion of names in the parish, means a section or division of land. As most of the lands with names so beginning lie along the slope of the hill side, and parallel, or contiguous to each other, they may have been portions of a territory which was originally all under the same superiority, possibly the ecclesiastical authority of Inchmahome, and for services rendered, or for other sufficient reasons, granted to vassals of the Priory. Manuel is probably a corrupted form of a personal name.

ARNBEG, the small portion.

ARNMORE, the large portion.

ARNPRIOR, the Prior's portion.

ARNFINLAY—Here might also be included

ARNGIBBON—Both Finlay and Gibbon being not unlikely proper names. Gibbon, at any rate, in its

patronymic form of M'Gibbon, is a name still common amongst us.

GARDEN—If we hold to the use of the letter G in Garden, then the same root *gart* occurs here as in Shir-garton, and the termination indicates a diminutive form, and correlates with Gartmore, Garden being the smaller, and Gartmore the larger enclosed and cultivated field. But the original spelling of Garden was Carden, and, better still and more complete, Cardun, which altered the case entirely. There can be no doubt about the meaning. The word is Calhair-divna (pronounced Card(y)en), which means "the fort of defence or shelter." Carden is the spelling used in the old Acts of Parliament. The prefix *Car* is generally the Brythonic *Cathair* (t is silent), meaning a "seat" or "fort;" hence *Cathair-dun* would be equivalent to the English Castle-hill. There is a Carden in Peebles-shire, and another in Fife. Then we have Carnock, Carbeth, Cardross, etc.

We now come to the last barony,

BUCHLYVIE—In his "History of Stirlingshire," the Rev. William Nimmo suggests *ball-cladb-beheth*, "the field of the burying ground," but this theory is doubtful, and in the absence of tradition there is much difficulty in getting at the etymology of this name. It may mean "the bog beside the birches;" or, if there is any tradition surviving associating the place with an ancient battle, it may be *Buaidh Chlaidhcamh*, i.e., "the victory of the sword." There is no doubt whatever that, not merely in urns, but also in certain knolls in Buchlyvie, human remains have been found in large numbers, and this might well point to the latter conclusion as the correct interpretation. But a lively imagination may even trace in the word Buchlyvie a root which means poor or needy, and thus recall the rhyme

and the poverty of the place which Sir Walter Scott describes in "Rob Roy"—

"Ye Baron o' Buchlyvie,
May the foul fiend drive ye,
And a' to pieces rive ye,
For building sic a toun,
Where there's neither horse meat,
Nor man's meat, nor chair to sit doon."

It may also be *Both-Chliabhach* (pronounced "Buchleevich"), meaning "the wicker-work house," a kind of which there were not a few in the old days.

POPULATION.

The population of the parish in

1793	was	1,777
1801	"	1,722
1811	"	1,893
1821	"	2,029
1831	"	2,085
1851	"	1,892
1861	"	1,736
1871	"	1,568
1891	"	1,486
1901	"	1,456

The population of the village in 1901 was 356.

RATEABLE VALUATION.

The valuation of the parish, taken in 1777, was £5,194 2s. 10d.

In 1902 the valuation of the entire parish was as follows:

IN STIRLINGSHIRE—

Eastern Division,	...	...	£3,664	19	5
Western Division,	...	...	3,423	17	3
Railways,	...	...	916	0	0

IN PERTHSHIRE—

Central Division,	...	...	£4,311	9	8
Railways,	...	...	935	0	0

Total valuation of parish, £13,251 6 4



MAIN STREET, KIPPIN.

By the order of the Boundary Commissioners, dated 5th August, 1890, that part of the Parish of Kippen which formed part of the County of Perth ceased to be part of that county on the 15th day of May, 1891. The whole of the Parish of Kippen is now in Stirlingshire for all purposes except Parliamentary, parishioners residing in that portion which forms part of the County of Perth still retaining the privilege of voting for a member of Parliament for West Perthshire.

ACREAGE.

The following tabular statement shows the acreage of the parish, with the number of acres under cultivation, in pasture, and wood.

Acrea.	Tillage.	Pasture.	Wood.
6,342	1,420	4,360	562

THE KINGDOM OF KIPPEN.

THIS facetious "kingdom" was constituted in the reign of James IV., and came about in the following manner. Sir Duncan Forrester of Garden was comptroller of the King's household under James IV. The Menzies were then proprietors of great part of the parish of Kippen, and of some part of that of Killearn. Menzies of Arnprior, in that part of the former which is included in Perthshire, had a quarrel with Forrester of Garden, who, as Menzies was childless, insisted that he should either settle his estate upon him by testament, or instantly withdraw from it. Menzies applied to Walter Buchanan of Buchanan, and offered to leave Arnprior to one of his sons if he would defend him from Forrester. Buchanan accepted the offer, and sent his second son, John, with a dry nurse, to live with his adoptive father. On hearing this, Forrester came to Arnprior, in Menzies' absence, and ordered the nurse to carry back the child, otherwise he would burn the Castle of Arnprior about

their ears. The woman, however, setting him at defiance, and threatening him with her master's vengeance, intimidated him, and he did not make good his word.

KING OF KIPPEN.

John Buchanan became proprietor of Arnprior, and afterwards the noted "King of Kippen," a phrase which originated in the whimsical episode between himself and James V., who, it may be explained, was fond of travelling in disguise under the title of "The Guid Man o' Ballengeich," after the steep path leading down from the Castle of Stirling.

The story has been variously put. It is shortly this:—The King, with his nobles, was residing in Stirling Castle, and having sent a party for some deer to the hills in the neighbourhood of Gartmore, on their return to Stirling with the venison they passed through Arnprior, where they were attacked by the chief, and relieved of their burden. On expostulating with Buchanan for so ruthlessly taking from them what belonged to the King, Buchanan replied that if James was King in Scotland, he was King of Kippen.

The messengers reporting the circumstance to the King, he, relishing a joke, resolved to wait on his neighbouring majesty of Kippen, and rode out one day with a small retinue from Stirling. Demanding admittance at the palace of Arnprior, he was refused by a fierce-looking warrior standing at the gate with a battle-axe sloped on his shoulder, who told him there was no admission, as his chief was at dinner with a large company, and could not be disturbed at that time.

"Tell your master," said James, "'the Guidman of Ballengeich' humbly requests an audience of the King of Kippen."

Buchanan, guessing the quality of his guest, received His Majesty with the appropriate honours, and became so great a favourite that he had leave to draw upon the carrier as often as he pleased, and was invited, as "King of Kippen," to visit his brother sovereign at Stirling.

“OOT O’ THE WORLD AND INTO KIPPEN.”

THE situation of the village is so sequestered that a common saying of the country folks is as above. The phrase is the title of the following lines composed by Stewart A. Robertson, M.A., Stirling High School, and are supposed to be spoken by a husband to his wife, both natives of the “Kingdom,” dwelling in New York:—

“Oot o’ the world and into Kippen,”

Eh ! Jean, d’ye mind the braes
That rise sae bonnie frae the carse ?
D’ye mind the summer days
When you and I were bairnies there,
And never thocht we’d be
Sae far frae hame in this far land
Across the sant, sant sea ?

“Oot o’ the world and into Kippen,”

The folks wad laugh and say,
Losh keep me ! lass, hoo things come back,
It seems but yesterday
Since you and I forsook the braes
And owe the waters came,
To settle in this weary land,
Sae far, sae far frae hame.

“Oot o’ the world and into Kippen,”

Eh ! Jean, that that could be ?
There isna ocht I hae on earth
But I wad gladly gie
If only we could tread again
The paths where ance we ran,
Where the heather grows on Kippen Muir
And the braes abune Boquhan.

Oot o’ this world o’ noisy streets

Into that place o’ calm,
Where to the hills men lift their eyes,
D’ye mind they sang that psalm
The Sabbath we were kirkit there ?
Aye, fifty years are gone,
But ye were then the bonniest bride
’Tween Kippen and Balfron.

Oot o’ this world o’ unkent things,

Oh ! that we baith could win !
And hear the pee-weep on the hills,
And see the yellow whin,

THE KINGDOM OF KIPPEN :

And see the bonnie gowans smile
 As if they kent us a',
 And welcomed us to oor ain land,
 The best land o' them a'.

" Oot o' the world and into Kippen,"
 Jean, lass, it ne'er will be,
 The burnie's waters ne'er run back,
 Nor buds the uprooted tree.
 The fecht o' life for us is past
 Forfochen wi' the fray,
 Oot o' the world and into——rest,
 Ere lang we baith shall gae.

The foregoing poem elicited the following reply :—

Thy voice across the saut, saut sea
 Has reached the " Kingdom " high,
 And draws from kindly Kippen folks
 The tribute of a sigh.

That a warm, human heart should long,
 In New York's surging city,
 For breath o' auld warld Kippen air
 Fills all our souls with pity.

Though times are changed sin' ye left here,
 And auld folk passed away,
 Mayhap as kindly hearts beat now
 As flourished in your day.

Whatever changes come to pass
 'Mangst men and their affairs,
 Still winds the Forth through fair Menteith,
 Still blow heaven's balmy airs

O'er Kippen Muir, through garden bower,
 Round many a humble dwelling,
 Or doun the glen, by Dougal's tower,
 The same brown spate is swelling.

The rushing waters o' Boquhan
 Fall o'er the " Hole of Sneath,"
 And rest awhile, from their turmoil,
 In the deep, dark linn beneath,

Then onward through the red rock bowls
 The " Devil's Cauldron " boiling,
 And round and round, with deaf'ning sound,
 The angry waters toiling.

Anon, through "Belly o' the Whale,"
Where brown trout dart and quiver,
And laddies throw the baited hook
To-day—the same as ever.

Still the shy dipper lays white eggs
In Cuthbertson's shady glen,
And the grey wagtail rears her brood
Where truant schoolboys ken.

Still slips the burn o'er rocky bed,
O'er "Leckie's Loup" it dashes,
Round the Keir Knowe, to join the Forth,
Through marigolds and rashes.

Athwart Ben Ledi—Hill of God—
Falls the weird morning light,
And heralds each returning day
Born of the silent night.

The varied gleams of fairy light
Still dance on Flanders Moss,
And glory bathes the ancient oaks
And mansion of Cardross.

Still Glenney and Mondouie's slopes
Look on the "sharp steel sheen"
That girds the holy island which
Once sheltered Scotland's Queen.

O, Hill of God, that doth abide
While generations pass,
I to thy heights will lift mine eyes,
Will sing my morning mass.

The parson from the manse still views
The mountains, plain, and skies,
Still, for men's sins he cannot cure,
He supplicates and sighs.

"Oot o' the world and into Kippen,"
Far from the rough world's din,
May your spirit come o'er the saut, saut sea
To rest with your kith and kin.

KIPPEN RAILWAY STATION.

THIS hitherto dull and cheerless station has recently undergone a complete transformation, a large selection of plants and choice flowers, producing every shade and variety of colour, being artistically studded on, around, and in every available nook and

corner of the platform; while borders in semi-shaded spots are profusely filled with *Polypodium Vulgare*. Ornamental vases, beds and mounds of various designs, edged with blaes and white pebbles, blue and golden-coloured violas, etc., adorn the centre of the platform; while in the background, stretching the entire length of the boundary fence, are rows of superb varieties of sweet peas, in the centre of which rises the artistic hoarding of Messrs. Munro & Jamieson, of the *Observer* Office, Stirling.

Although passengers, tourists, etc., are still bowled along the track at the same slow speed as fifty years ago, yet tourists and others alighting at this newly made miniature paradise will hesitate and ponder ere they are again heard to exclaim they have come "oot o' the world and into Kippen."

CIVIC RULERS.

"PROVOSTS."

THE "Kingdom" having for centuries enjoyed the high distinction of possessing a Royal ruler, it is no wonder that aspirants to honours in a less degree loomed on the horizon, and it is with little surprise, therefore, that about the year 1880 we find a full-fledged magnate bearing the civic title of "Provost of Kippen" appearing in our midst. Some villagers, probably envious ones, went the length of saying that the title was self-conferred. Be that as it may, Provost Welsh enjoyed the privileges of the title unmolested by opposition for about ten years, when a rival in the person of Provost M'Niven endeavoured to depose him from office, and a bitter feud for supremacy existed between them for several years, each holding on tenaciously to the title. In order to enable the villagers to better understand who was the real and only Provost, Provost M'Niven caused a spring of excellent water to be conveyed from one of the fields on his farm to the road leading to Kippen Station, where he erected a drinking fountain for travellers, marking the spot by

building in the wall an iron tablet bearing the inscription, "Provost M'Niven's Well."

The demise of Provost M'Niven in 1897 left Provost Welsh again in the undisputed possession of the Provostship, and, the better to secure his tenure of office, as a precedent several villagers assembled at Kippen Cross on the first day of January, 1900, and elected him Provost of the "Kingdom" for the ensuing year, there being no other nominations. On the first of January, 1901, a number of villagers again assembled at the Cross, and the spokesman having called for nominations for the office of Provost, only one candidate appeared—Mr. David Young, Claylands, and Mr. Young was therefore unanimously elected. Since his appointment, Provost Young has proved, by many deeds of philanthropy, he has the interest and welfare of the "Kingdom" at heart. Not only does he distribute annually seasonable gifts of potatoes and other fruits of the husbandman amongst the poor, but shortly after his election he raised by subscription a sufficient fund to enable him to place a number of well-appointed seats in convenient nooks around the village, where the weary toiler can spend a summer evening and enjoy his pipe and evening paper, and where also the visitor and careworn legislator of this progressive "Kingdom" can pause and rest amidst splendid scenery, and muse on Kippen's coming greatness.

PARISH COUNCIL.

On 10th August, 1894, a Local Government Act was passed in Parliament, by which a Parish Council was established in every parish, taking the place of the Parochial Board, which administered the Poor Law (Scotland) Act, 1845. Previous to this Act the administrators of the Poor Law Act were for the most part representative of property, but now the Parish Council are elected from among the electors, and retire at the end of three years, but are eligible for re-election. Regarding the powers and duties transferred to the Parish Councils, it has been simply a case of exit Parochial Board, enter

Parish Council, with power to provide or acquire suitable buildings and public offices to carry on their business. In addition to administering the Poor Law Act, the Council have charge of the providing and maintaining of public recreation grounds ; have power to protect rights-of-way ; to hold property and bequests for the benefit of the parish ; have certain powers under the Public Health Act, 1887, and also with regard to allotments ; have the right to make complaints regarding unhealthy dwellings, under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890 ; and of looking after the repair of public highways.

Eleven councillors are allotted to Kippen Parish. The first Council, elected on 2nd April, 1895, consisted of the following gentlemen :—

Duncan Buchanan, Forth Vineyards, Kippen.
 Admiral Campbell, C.B., of Boquhan, Kippen.
 John Drysdale, Fairfield, Kippen.
 Andrew Dewar, Arnprior, Kippen.
 Daniel Kennedy, Wood Merchant, Buchlyvie.
 James M'Phie, jun., Grocer, Buchlyvie.
 James Macfarlane, Oxhill, Buchlyvie.
 Alex. M. Gardner, Cashley, Buchlyvie.
 James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.
 James Weir, Blacksmith, Buchlyvie.
 Thomas Welsh, Beechwood, Kippen.
Chairman—James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, 1903.

Andrew Buchanan, Residenter, Buchlyvie.
 John Drysdale, Arngibbon, Arnprior.
 Robert Dougall, Post Office, Kippen.
 Andrew Dewar, Arnprior, Kippen.
 James Dick, Joiner, Buchlyvie.
 John Monteath, Esq., of Wright Park, Kippen.
 Rev. John A. Macdonald, Buchlyvie.
 Thomas M'Ewan, Land Surveyor, Buchlyvie.
 James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.
 Thomas Syme, Strathview, Kippen.
 Thomas Welsh, Beechwood, Kippen.
Chairman—James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.



STATION ROAD AND UNITED FREE CHURCH, BALLYVIE.

COUNTY COUNCIL.

The Parish also returns one representative in their interests to the County Council, who is elected at the same date and place as the Parish Council.

The first County Councillor, Admiral Campbell, C.B., of Boquhan, and the present, James Stirling, Esq., of Garden, were elected without opposition.

SCHOOL BOARD.

With the passing of the Elementary Education Act, 1872, the old parochial system of teaching became extinct, and a system which produced an inestimable privilege to teachers and taught passed away, the pupils under the old regime having been well grounded in a few subjects, instead of being washed with a dozen. But since the introduction of the Act, the Educational Department has considerably revised and amended the general working of the measure, and teachers now possess a wider latitude and more freedom from code restrictions than when the Act first came into operation. For ages the parish has been productive of sons and daughters who have acquired high scholarly attainments, as also brave, loyal, and industrious citizens, who have contributed not a little to the welfare of the empire.

Five members constitute the Board, who retire at the end of three years, but are eligible for re-election. The first election of a School Board for the Parish took place on Saturday, 29th March, 1873, at Arnprior School, considerable enthusiasm being displayed by the electors. The following gentlemen were elected members of the first Board:—

Henry Fletcher Campbell, Esq., of Boquhan.

Daniel Fisher, Esq., of Ballamenoch.

Rev. Patrick Thomas Muirhead, F.C. Manse, Kippen.

George M'Farlane, Esq., Buchlyvie Station.

James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.

Chairman—Henry Fletcher Campbell, Esq., of Boquhan.

MEMBERS OF BOARD, 1903.

John Drysdale, Arngibbon, Arnprior.

D. H. Mack, Banker, Buchlyvie.

Stephen Mitchell, Esq., of Boquhan.

James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.

Thomas Syme, Builder, Kippen.

Chairman—James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.

WATER SUPPLY.

THE "Kingdom of Kippen," in addition to being in the centre of a historical and interesting neighbourhood, is now recognised as one of the finest summer resorts that can be found in Britain, and within recent years the village has become quite a fashionable holiday centre on account of its bracing air and picturesque surroundings. Its walks are many and varied, and the position of the village, like the "city that is set on a hill, and cannot be hid," commands one of those views which is rarely, if ever, met with in any other part of Scotland. Within the last decade or so numerous handsome villas have been erected on charming sites on the brow of the hill, where busy city residents can retire to spend their leisure "far from the madding crowd." This has been largely brought about by the improved water supply, and the expectation that still further improvements will be made.

The use of sunk wells, or "weavers' wells," as they were locally defined, necessitating the conveying of water from the well to the household by means of wooden "stoups," in several instances for distances of over a hundred yards, was in vogue till about the middle of the nineteenth century. At that period a supply of water by gravitation was brought to the village by a private company, from springs in the Black Brae, furnishing a supply of about 5,640 gallons per 24 hours. At the close of the century, owing to the erection of a number of villas fitted with modern sanitary conveniences, including bath rooms, etc., this supply was found to be inadequate for the

requirements of the Public Health Act, and a petition was presented to the County Council to provide a more abundant supply of water, and to form the district into a special water district for assessment. After considering several schemes, the County Council in 1901 adopted that of purchasing the existing works of the Kippen Water Company, and augmenting the supply by a bore sunk to a depth of 90 feet in a field on Dighty Farm, above the village of Cauldhame, which was expected to yield an additional supply of 17,280 gallons per 24 hours, the total cost being estimated at £1,039 12s. 2d.

The special water district embraces the villages of Kippen, Cauldhame, and Shirgarton.

LIGHTING SCHEME.

A SCHEME for the purpose of providing light in the village streets on dark winter nights by means of paraffin lamps was promoted in 1898 by Mr. William M'Queen, Shirgarton. From the proceeds of a concert held in aid of the scheme over half-a-dozen lamps were provided, and fixed at various places in the village. The proceeds of an annual concert in their behalf, however, failed to keep them alight for more than three winters, and the village streets have again assumed their dark and dismal appearance on winter nights.

LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

TANNING AND TAMBOURING.

A S we have already noted, the Parish of Kippen is at present almost wholly agricultural. It is interesting, however, to know that for generations a successful business was carried on in Buchlyvie in tanning leather. Indeed, the works, which consisted of some 200 pools, were in a flourishing condition at the beginning of the nineteenth century, while at the same period the tambouring of muslin was an important industry in the village and its vicinity, upwards of sixty young women being employed at this branch in the village alone.

WEAVING.

During the same period there was also a good trade done in cotton and linen weaving, the raw material being carted from Glasgow by way of Campsie and Fintry, and eighty looms were employed in the village, with a corresponding number in the hamlets of Loaningfoot, Arnprior, Arnfinlay, and the village of Buchlyvie. A carrier was employed four days a-week conveying the material to and from Glasgow. Silk weaving was also carried on for several years in the village, and the silk weavers of Kippen earned a reputation throughout central Scotland for producing a very superior article. It was when these industries commenced, and while they flourished, that the village chiefly assumed its present appearance. The manufacture of woollen fabrics was also engaged in well on to the third quarter of the nineteenth century by the process of handloom weaving. The last handloom worker who was known to "ca' the shuttle" in the vicinity of the village was Mr. James Lennie of Loaningfoot, old age causing him to give up this means of livelihood about the year 1870.

MALTING AND DISTILLING.

A very extensive trade was also carried on in the district in malting and distilling. This trade preceded the weaving industry by a good many years. At one time there were five distilleries and sixteen malt barns. A distillery of considerable dimensions was situated at Burnside, on the site where the tenement of houses called The Pit is now erected. It was subsequently converted into a saw pit (hence its present name), following which a portion of it was converted into a school. This distillery was owned and carried on by one Nicol Shirra. Latterly there was only one distillery carried on in the parish, that of Arnprior, the tenants being John and David Cassels. For many years the average annual duty to Government from this distillery alone, according to the "Gazetteer," amounted to £17,000. Having been placed by an old Act on the north, or Highland, side of the line, Kippen had

certain privileges for the somewhat free manufacture of whisky. By a subsequent Act, however, dated 1793, placing the parish on the south side of the line, these privileges were withdrawn, hence the reduction of the number of distilleries in the parish, if not the decay of the trade.

The existence of such a large number of malt barns, carried on to the middle of the nineteenth century, enabled the smugglers of the district to obtain their supply of malt without much difficulty. Recent structural alterations and improvements have obliterated in most cases all traces of where the majority of these malt barns were situated. It may be interesting to note here, however, a few of the sites, and by whom they were owned. Burnside Malt Barn, where the present farmstead of Burnside stands, was owned by William Shirra. That house at Music Hall, presently occupied as a gamekeeper's lodge, was carried on as a malt barn up till 1830 by Alexander M'Lachlan. A portion of The Pit, already mentioned, by John Neilson, who also had a large malt barn where the villa of Howden Lea is now erected. Moirstone, adjoining the site of the present tilework, by James Macfarlane. The old, red-tiled, barn-shaped house known as Oxhill House stands almost entire as in the days of malting, a few internal arrangements having converted it into dwelling-houses. The old ruins at Kirkhill House, of which a portion is at present converted into a hearse house, was used as a large malt steep.

MEAL MILLS.

There were at one time several meal mills in the parish, all of which, with the exception of the present one at Arnprior, have ceased working, and in some instances been demolished altogether, the plough and the reaping machine passing over the spot where once they stood. Well might some of the natives still alive, on viewing the site of their birthplace, exclaim—

“ An old oak tree, or maybe twa,
Among the waving corn,
Is a' the trace that time has left
O' the place whaur I was born.”

The oldest meal mill we have record of was the Mill of Dasher, which was situated in the glen of Boquhan, afterwards converted into a sawmill, and continued as such until 1896. A meal mill also existed at Newmiln in 1682, for we find that one Arthur Dougall, miller at Newmiln, was apprehended in that year for attending a conventicle at Gribbloch, and carried to Glasgow Tolbooth. This mill was burned to the ground in 1855, and never rebuilt. The meal mill of Glentirran ceased working about 1880, and has since been entirely demolished, not a stone having been left to mark its site. The meal mill of Broich has also long ago ceased working, but a portion of it is still used as a saw mill by the proprietrix of Arngomery.

BRICK AND TILE WORKS.

A brick and tilework, affording employment to about a dozen of the villagers, was carried on at Kippen Station till about 1895. The proprietor of Boquhan, Admiral Campbell, who had it in his own hands, gave it up at that date as a non-paying concern.

CREAMERIES.

Two creameries, or butter factories, have been established in the parish—one at Fairfield, in 1885, named The Fairfield Farming Company, transferred to Arngibbon in 1899; and one at Gateside, Arngomery, in 1899, named The Stirlingshire Creamery Company. The farmers in the district find a ready sale for their whole milk at these creameries at a fairly remunerative price; while the companies command a good price for the manufactured article in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and other large centres, the butter being of a uniform grade and excellent quality; the by-products, buttermilk and separated skim-milk, are also in great demand by the dairymen of large towns.

VINERIES.

Through the energetic enterprise of Messrs. D. & W. Buchanan, gardeners, vineries for the cultivation of hot-house grapes were erected in 1889 at Cauldhame, the

glass alone employed in their structure covering an area of 44,000 square feet. Since the beginning of this industry, Forth Vineyard, as it is named, has been a household word in the gardening world both north and south of the Tweed, and at every important horticultural exhibition in Britain its products have generally obtained the highest awards, with bunches of grapes weighing from 8 lbs. to 10 lbs. respectively, although grape-growing for market is the primary object of the establishment. In addition to grape-growing, the Messrs. Buchanan are specialists in the raising and introducing of new grapes, a seedling raised by them in 1895—"Diamond Jubilee"—being now seen on every exhibition board, while "Empress of India," "Forth Vineyard," and "Queen Victoria," are other seedlings of great promise. Another feature of this industry is the preserving, by a special process, of their celebrated autumn-tinted vine leaves, fronds of maiden-hair fern, etc., which keep fresh in vases without water for months, and make the most lovely and unique decorations that it is possible to conceive of.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Other industries and trades at present are red freestone quarries in Kippen Muir, carried on by Mr. Thomas Syme; building trade, by Mr. Thomas Syme and Mr. John Duncanson; coachbuilding, by Mr. James Forrester; carting and contracting, by Mrs. James Hay, Mr. George Hay, and Mr. Robert Davidson; watch and clock making, by Mr. Robert Dougall; boot and shoemaking, by Mr. John Ure and Mr. George Walker; tailoring, by Mr. John Gilchrist; smith work, by Mr. John Rennie and Mr. William Duncanson; joinery, by Mr. Thomas Welsh and Mr. John Welsh; jobbing and posting, by Mr. John Duncanson and Mr. William Stirling; fleshing, by Mr. William M'Queen and Messrs. Bennie & Livingstone; bakery, by Messrs. John Watson & Son; news agency, by Mr. Robert Dougall; dealing in china and earthenware, by Mr. James Kenny; coal agency, by Mr. James Stewart, Ladylands; grocery, by Messrs. John Watson & Son, Mr. James Blair, Mrs.

Alex. Blair, and Mrs. James Stirling; licensed grocery, by Mr. James Buchanan and Mrs. John Mason; hotels, Cross Keys, by Mr. Robert Buchanan; Crown Hotel, by Mr. John Duncanson.

AGRICULTURE.

THE advance and general diffusion of agricultural knowledge has completely changed the character of the district in regard to soil. Apart from systematic husbandry, the importance of thorough draining and trenching, where the land was wet, began early to be understood, but it was only when the laird found it convenient to do the work at his own expense that any progress in this direction was made, for, however willing the tenant might be to have his ground improved by tile draining, it was rare that he could command the funds. During the eighteenth century an immense improvement was effected in agriculture in the parish, consequent upon the introduction of the cultivation of clovers and artificial grasses and of turnips. Rents increased at least one-third by the close of the third quarter of the century, and also kept steadily rising during the last quarter, through the operation of the high prices prevailing during the French and Continental wars.

THE LAIRD.

The position of the laird was most favourable, as his income had greatly increased, largely through his own active participation in the new agriculture. The laird of that day might well be termed a country squire; he usually farmed a considerable area himself, was in all respects a practical farmer, and usually a pioneer in matters of agricultural improvement. His amusements and recreations were neither expensive nor ultra refined, and, as a rule, he lived on his estates and spent the greater part of his surplus income in their improvement, and took a very active part in the amenities of rural life. The position of the laird of the present day is decidedly inferior to that of his predecessor of the eighteenth century; his



PARISH CHURCH, KIPPEN.

amusements and habits have become more expensive, but in the rivalry with the aristocracy of commerce he has often had to take second place. He is no longer practically conversant with farm cultivation, and where the management of the estate is wholly committed to agents the old relationship which survived the abolition of the feudal system is gradually dying out.

THE FARMER.

The farmer was a man of ruder and rougher type than is to be generally met with at the present time. He rose with the lark, wrought with his workers in the fields, was blessed with but little more education than they, but he possessed most of the solid comforts of life without any of its elegances. He rarely travelled far from the parish, and his world was very circumscribed, but the exigencies of the then cultivation needed little knowledge of what is now termed scientific agriculture, and, comparatively ignorant though he was, he made money. The farmer of to-day belongs to a new order, although here and there men of the old stamp may be met with, especially on small crofts. The imperative use of artificial manures and feeding stuffs, the introduction of expensive and complicated machinery, and the approximation of agriculture to an exact science, necessitate larger capital and wider knowledge. He is much better educated and more refined than his ancestors, but in this age of luxury he has acquired more expensive habits and some want of relish for physical labour. He may not make much money, but he lives well, and possesses most of the comforts of life and a fair proportion of its luxuries.

THE FARM SERVANT.

The position of the farm servant or ploughman a hundred years ago was most unenviable. He wrought long hours for a mere pittance of a wage, averaging about eight or ten shillings per week, and subsisted principally on oatmeal. He was coarse and uncouth, and almost devoid of education. To-day he works shorter hours and

receives double the wage paid to his predecessor, and his position has vastly improved. Free education is provided for his children, some measure of political power has come to himself, and his general habits have materially improved, but the cottage in which he lives is often insanitary and in some cases woefully deficient in bedroom accommodation. The conversion of two or three small farms into one large farm has been a means of checking the supply of farm servants in the locality, and we find the ploughmen forsaking the parish and resorting to Glasgow and other populous centres, attracted by higher wages and shorter working hours, and also impelled by the desire for change which has so largely followed the spread of education. The scarcity of suitable servants thus occasioned is to a certain extent checking the development of dairying in the parish, one of the most lucrative branches of modern agriculture.

ADVANCEMENT IN HUSBANDRY.

Although the main features of agriculture have remained seemingly unaltered for many generations, yet there are few of the myriad branches into which this great industry is split up which do not show proof of considerable advancement and improvement, until now, we may truly say, our oldest and principal industry in the parish has in several ways become truly scientific. Not only has it secured the devoted service of men who are highly scientific, but the vast body of farmers and all others interested in husbandry are learning how to put away ignorance and fallacies of many types, and in their place are adopting views and methods founded upon true principles. For ages the produce of Kippen parish has been held in high esteem, but there are few things grown which within living memory do not show signs of improvement. In most cases the improvement is still more marked in the methods of production. At the beginning of the nineteenth century the crops in the parish generally sufficed to supply home requirements, although the produce was small and the quality inferior

compared with present standards. Several years in the early part of the last century were disastrously bad, so that prices for cereals ruled high till 1812. At that period farmers in the carse lands beneath the village sold wheat in Stirling market at 63s. per boll; but instead of poor, thin wheat, often weighing little over 52 lbs. per bushel, and running down to 14 bushels per acre, this cereal can now be grown from 45 to 50 bushels per acre, nearly all of which exceeds 65 lbs. per bushel, the average price being 28s. per quarter.

In earlier times, oats, barley, peas, and beans entered more largely than at present into the ordinary food of the parishioners, but when these were used exclusively as substitutes for wheat, they generally deranged the bodily health of the consumer.

Formerly wheat was frequently divided into two classes—the winter, *Triticum Hibernum*, and the summer, *T. Aestivum*. This classification, however, is no longer recognised, as it is now well known that the cereal, by being constantly sown in the spring, quite changes its habits as to time of ripening. The produce of wheat sown in the spring acquires the habit of perfecting its growth quicker than the produce of the same wheat sown in the autumn. In soils containing large proportions of sand, or of organic matter, but deficient in clay, we often see the young plant very luxuriant at first, but without the power to build up its stem, for which a certain amount of silica and potash are necessary. Silica and lime are also required for the chaff, with potash, phosphoric acid, magnesia, and ammonia for the seed. In no other description of soil will wheat flourish. These substances are generally found to exist in clays to a greater extent than in other kinds of earth—hence the suitability of the carse for this important crop.

Barley is generally admitted to the second place in the order of cereal crops, but our climate and soil being as a rule better adapted for oats, the latter take the precedence in the farmer's estimation.

The Scotch, or horse bean, is the principal bean

grown in the parish, and the method of distributing the seed broadcast is practised in the carse lands.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The machinery of the farm has also shared in the general improvement. The manufacture of farm machinery and implements has passed from the hands of the village blacksmith and joiner into those of great engineering firms, who have been able to employ scientific experts to develop ideas to the greatest advantage, and to provide machinery which render construction much more efficient. It would be an impossibility for the higher class of machinery to be turned out at the village smithy, and the employment of scientific engineers has resulted in the application of sound mechanical principles. This has affected comparatively simple implements as well as more intricate machinery. At the same time our country blacksmiths have added a considerable number of inventions to the list, some of them of great value.

The primitive home-made utensils contrast strangely with the improved agricultural implements of the present day. Ploughs in the earlier times were seldom bought, but, as a rule, manufactured on the farm. In 1330 we find their price one shilling, and between 1351 and 1370 their value was one shilling and sixpence. The implement, of course, was common joiner's work, and subject to no demand. Wooden ploughs, wooden harrows, wooden threshing implements (flails), and a host of other wooden articles were the weapons which our farmers had mainly to rely upon in wresting their crops from the soil. The material might have mattered less had the implements been less crudely constructed. In spite of their crudeness, however, there were a great many implements and machines in use which embody the principles of to-day.

What see we now in the fields? Light, easily-drawn steel ploughs and grubbers, drill harrows, potato planters and diggers, turnip lifters, seed and manure distributors, self-binding reaping machines, hay forks and rick lifters,

also portable steam threshing machines. At the farm steadings we now have machines which make it possible for the first portion of a cow's milk to be churned into butter before the milker can strip the cow's udder clean; also incubators for the wholesale hatching of chickens.

No doubt the merry scene of a band of the young of both sexes striving with the hook as to who should have the honour of carrying off the "maiden" for the crown of the harvest home, was attractive, but although hoeing and weeding, and even sheafing, may still be done on our smaller crofts in the parish by manual labour, the days of the "hairst" field are gone for both hook and scythe. Some great feats in shearing were, however, performed with the "hook," notwithstanding the fact that the reaping machine sweeps down the grain, in regard to time, in the ratio of ten to one. One old woman in the parish was known to shear with the hook over 400 good-sized sheaves daily.

FAMOUS CLYDESDALES.

The district has now become famous throughout the United Kingdom owing to the advancement made in the breeding of a superior strain of Clydesdale horses, Mr. Andrew Dewar, Arnprior, having bred, amongst other famous animals of the Clydesdale breed, the sensational stallion, "Royal Favourite" (10630). This horse was got by the noted Cawdor Cup Champion horse, "Royal Gartly" (9844), and his dam was a daughter of the famous Keir-bred horse, "Brooklyn" (6547), which fetched £700 at the Keir sale in 1890. "Royal Favourite" has not been much shown, but the illustration we give elsewhere proves him to be a thick, well-built, and typical Clydesdale stallion. "Royal Favourite" was foaled on 6th May, 1897, and was sire of first and second yearling fillies, and first, third, and fourth yearling colts at the Glasgow Show of 1902. Six of his produce won sixteen prizes last year, and a yearling filly, "Nellie," sired by him, bred by and the property of Henry Gray, Kincardine-on-Forth, won first at the Highland and Agricultural Show at Aberdeen in 1902, and also won the Female Clydesdale Championship at

Glasgow Show the same year. He is now owned by Mr. Dewar's son, Mr. Peter Dewar, who refused the very tempting offer of £3,000 for him in 1902. Other breeders of a superior class of Clydesdales who have realised handsome prices are:—

William M'Keich, Woodend, Buchlyvie.
 George Graham, Faraway, Port of Menteith.
 John More, Fordhead, Kippen.
 James Gray, Birkenwood.
 John Paterson, Wester Frew.
 John Risk, Culmore.

AYRSHIRE CATTLE.

Particular attention has also been paid to the breeding of Ayrshire Cattle with considerable success by

John Drysdale, Arngibbon.
 Arch. Blair, Arnmore.
 John More, Fordhead.
 James Macfarlane, Oxhill.
 James Strang, Knockinshannoch.

OWNERS OF FARMS.

There are thirty farms in Kippen Parish, the largest holders of property being—

Dame Helen Catherine Connal, of Arngomery.
 Stephen Mitchell, Esq., of Boquhan.
 James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.
 John Monteath, Esq., of Wright Park.
 William Galbraith, Esq., of Blackhouse and Littlekerse.
 William Forrester, Esq., of Arngibbon.
 James Harvie Brown, Esq., of Shirgarton.
 James Macfarlane, Esq., of Oxhill.
 Andrew Dougall, Esq., of Angusstep.
 Moses B. Scouler, Esq., of Middlekerse.

CHEMISTRY.

The study of agricultural chemistry is making rapid progress among the majority of our farmers of the present day, and it is evident that an element of the greatest

moment in attaining their present advanced position has been chemical analysis, which now constitutes one of the agriculturist's most useful servants. Under its guidance he is taught to prepare and conserve farmyard manure satisfactorily. He knows what plant food his soil requires, and how best and in what form to apply it. His choice is directed in purchasing costly fertilisers and foods, whose preparation, again, is largely dependent on help rendered by analysis; moreover, through its instrumentality he finds efficient protection from fraudulent and careless dealers. As a result of this progressive movement, we now find practical men respecting and seeking, rather than slighting, well-directed scientific efforts, and whereas a farmer's knowledge formerly consisted chiefly of isolated facts and rule of thumb procedure, we observe precision and true economy extending as the reasons underlying various courses of action become more apparent and appreciated.

SOIL.

KIPPEN Parish consists of a variety of soils, which are named respectively carse, dryfield, and moor. The first extends along the banks of the Forth, the whole length of the parish from Buchlyvie to the Bridge of Frew. It is composed of the finest clay, without stones, and interspersed with strata of marine shells.

CARSE.

The following is an analysis of the carse soil:—

Water,	...	...	...	10	parts.
Silica,	...	...	...	44	"
Alumina,	...	...	...	28	"
Carbonate of Lime,	...	...	...	2½	"
Organic matter,	...	...	...	6	"
Oxide of Iron,	...	...	...	1½	"
Soluble Salts,	...	...	...	1	"
Soluble matter,	...	...	...	2	"
Loss matter,	...	...	...	5	"
				<hr/> 100 parts.	

DRYFIELD.

The term dryfield is not descriptive of the soil, but is used merely to distinguish it from the moor and carse lands. Its average depth is six or seven inches. It rests on a subsoil of gravel or till, and, springing from the valley, abruptly in some places, stretches for the most part slopingly—with here and there patches of rich tableland well enclosed and tastefully studded with trees—till it reaches the ridge, where it joins a moor. Sloping southwards the entire length of the parish, its appearance is somewhat cold and bleak in winter, but bright and genial when clothed in summer with its robe of heather. What is called moor comes to be termed dryfield by cultivation.

OLD YEW TREE AT ARNGOMERY.

In testimony of the fertility of some parts of the soil of the parish, as also the genial nature of the climate, we may refer to the grand old yew tree of Broich, now named Arngomery. For symmetry and general appearance this tree is admitted to be the finest in Britain. Growing on the lawn in front of the mansion house of Arngomery, it presents a stately and majestic appearance from the approach, and it is computed that a party of 160 might easily dine under the branches unobserved from the lawn outside. In 1858 the girth of trunk of this tree at the ground was 14 feet 6 inches; at three feet from the ground, 10 feet 1 inch; height, 35 feet 4 inches; circumference outside the branches, 205 feet. In 1878 a measurement was taken by the Rev. W. Wilson, and the girth at the ground was 14 feet 9 inches; at three feet from the ground, 11 feet 2 inches; and the circumference, 213 feet. In December, 1901, we measured the tree. The girth of trunk at ground was 15 feet 1 inch; at three feet from the ground, 11 feet 5 inches; circumference outside the branches, 235 feet. It is therefore steadily growing.

At Fortingall, in the West of Perthshire, there is a large yew tree, considered the oldest in Scotland, but it is



UNITED FREE CHURCH, KIPTEN.

unshapely ; indeed, it seems cleft asunder, and appears as two trees. In Wiltshire, on the property of the Marquis of Bath, there is a yew tree, the girth of which at the ground is 32 feet ; height, 50 feet ; and circumference outside branches, 164 feet. In the churchyard of Knockholt there is a yew tree, the girth of which is 22 feet ; height, 46 feet 7 inches ; and circumference outside branches, 202 feet. These trees appear to be higher and thicker in the trunk, but the branches of neither of them so spreading, nor, we should imagine, so handsome or so graceful as the tree at Arngomery.

An ancient Act of Parliament decreed that yew trees should be planted in all burying grounds of the Kingdom, to furnish material for bows. When the late Mr. Ewing took down the old house of Broich, which stood in front, but a little west of the site of the mansion house of Arngomery, in 1852, he found stones which antiquarians pronounced at least 800 years old, and it was inferred that probably the tree was of the same age. We do not think it is quite so old. Naturalists tell us that the age of a yew tree may be arrived at by giving a century to every foot of diameter of trunk. It is obviously upon this principle that the age of the tree belonging to the Marquis of Bath has been determined, and if we apply the same rule to the yew tree at Arngomery, its age must be about 500 years.

While on a visit to Arngomery in 1849 the late Lord Robertson composed the following lines on the yew tree :

“ Ne’er vaunt of blooming shrub, of stately tree,
The waving of sycamore, time-honoured oak,
As if their spell might solemn thought evoke,
Within these changeless shades enshrined there be
The silent depths of nobler sympathy,
At dewy morn, beneath the vesper star,
Tidings may waft, from cloudless realms afar,
Of times long past unveil the history.
No record proud proclaims thy mystic birth,
Thy prime no glimmering legend seems to tell,
Whether thou waviest o’er unhallowed earth,
Or at thy feet some Celtic warrior fell,
Or from the land of dreams enchanted here,
The mist-born spirits did their temple rear.”

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

THE villagers of earlier times were of a social, intellectual, and kindly race, and genuine brotherly love predominated. Families were interested in the history and welfare of other families. Births, marriages, sickness, and deaths were talked over at all firesides, and when assistance was needed it was in most cases offered before it was asked. They were also a very intelligent class, and devoted much of their spare time to reading. In proof of this numerous ancient volumes, treating of religion, history, poetry, and philosophy, are to be found in the village.

The weekly newspaper cost sevenpence, and was conveyed to the village by the Glasgow coach, its coming being eagerly awaited. Several villagers having clubbed together to procure a copy of certain newspapers, they assembled in some weaver's shop, where it was read by one of them to an attentive audience, who, with penetrating sagacity, afterwards discussed the greater social questions of their day.

The majority of the villagers, being feuars, had comfortable dwellings, roofed with thatch, and trim, well-kept gardens, in which were grown green kale, cabbage, potatoes, etc., and borders of delightful, old-fashioned flowers, among which were honesty, jelly flower, monkshood, columbine, primroses, pinks, with clumps of balm, peppermint, and apple-ringie. Their food was simple, but substantial and abundant. Those who had their feus in pasture arranged to have drills of potatoes with the neighbouring farmers, which they themselves planted, hoed, and carted home in the "back en" for winter use. At Martinmas two or three neighbours joined together and bought a "mart"—a fat stot or cow—which any of the neighbouring farmers had for sale. It was taken home to the village, killed, and divided according to agreement. They had usually a fat pig themselves ready for killing at the same season, which, along with a well-stocked girdel, enabled them to face the stormy days of winter with

"plenty in the hoose," and thus to some extent they enjoyed "the glorious privilege of being independent."

SOCIAL CHANGES.

Social changes have been no less marked in the village than those of an industrial character. The sphere of woman has been greatly enlarged, and new theories of the relation of the citizen to the State have come into vogue the world o'er. In literature, realism has substituted romance, while the philosophies of Spencer and Darwin have taken the place of that propounded by Sir William Hamilton. Even our pulpits are not free from discourses on science and philosophy, in place of the "old, old story." In all the walks of science and learning changes extraordinary for their extent and character have taken place within the past fifty years, probably not surpassed by that of all the past ages, and it is worthy of note that the "Kingdom of Kippen" has kept steadily at the front in the general march of progress.

LOCAL FAIRS.

ST. MAUVAE'S.

BY various Acts of Parliament the parishioners of Kippen have been privileged to hold a number of fairs in the parish. When the people flocked long ago to the monasteries, or abbeys, or churches on special days or festivals, they required, of course, some refreshment. Hence they brought with them not only food and drink, but articles of various kinds for sale. As a general rule, fairs were named after the local saint, and a fair held yearly in Kippen on the 26th of October was named St. Mauvae's Fair, after the saint of the parish. St. Mauvae's Well, on the west side of Kirkhill Cottage, in that narrow strip of field known as the Kiln Park, takes its name from this saint.

BALGAIR.

In 1686, William Leckie, the proprietor of the barony

of Dasher, by an Act of the Estates of Parliament, received permission, as also his successors, to hold three fairs in the course of the year, likewise the markets on the first three Wednesdays of December, on the Castlehill of Dasher. The original extract is in the possession of the Gartmore family. With the exception of one fair, known as the Mid-Wednesday of Kippen, all the others have fallen into abeyance. And so, too, have the fairs known as the Gowk Fair in April, and four markets at Balgair, in March, May, June, and August, and one at Buchlyvie. The June Fair at Balgair ranked as one of the most important fairs in Scotland. The opening up of the country with railways, and the establishing of auction markets in Stirling and other centres is responsible for the change. An earlier supplication, as it was called, by the Estates of Parliament to the heritors and parishioners of the parish of Kippen, of two yearly fairs, granted in 1663, runs thus—"That they (the heritors and parishioners of Kippen) ly at a far distance from any mercat toun, whereby they are much prejudged, put to great expenses in going to fairs for buying of their necessaries, which otherwayes they would not be put to if there were fairs appointed to be holden at any place within the said bounds, and therefore humbly desiring two fairs yearly might be allowed them to be keepit at the said Kirk of Kippen as the supplication bears, which being taken into consideration, the King, with advice and consent of his Estates of Parliament, doth hereby give and grant to the heritors and parishioners of Kippen, or where the same shall be situat heirafter, in any place of the said paroche, one fair in May the other in October yearly in all time coming, with all privileges and liberties belonging thereto."

CORN MARKET.

Frequent attempts were made towards the close of the eighteenth century to establish a weekly corn market at Kippen, also a weekly market during harvest time to engage reapers. The project, however, fell to the ground. The railway company now run special trains for the con-

veyance of live stock to the auction sales which are held at Stirling weekly, and grain is disposed of by sample packets, often carried in the pockets of farmers, or forwarded by parcel post to grain merchants.

THE "FEEING FAIR."

The "Feeing Fair"—for the hiring of farm servants—is also on the wane. Fairs held bi-yearly at Stirling and Falkirk are the principal centres for the engaging of farm servants resident in the locality, and are looked upon as the great half-yearly holidays of the farm. Many of both sexes visit these fairs purposely for an engagement, but the majority, having been previously hired, go merely on pleasure bent, and join in forming a merry, spirit-stirring spectacle in which there is the very extreme of gaiety. Everywhere along the public street the swarming, streaming mass shout and jostle each other in riotous merriment; the byre girls and dairymaids appear in the strongest colours of gala attire, and as they seldom get the opportunity of turning out in their best gear, they go to Stirling or Falkirk on a fair day, to use their own figurative language, "dressed to death," the outing generally terminating in a dance, while during the day "shows" and merry-go-rounds, if available, receive generous support, affording much diversion to the participants, and no small measure of amusement to the casual on-lookers. Jolly they are beyond description, and form a jubilant throng. A fiddler, above all things, they cannot stand: music takes their heels just as intoxicants would take their heads, yet, notwithstanding their boisterous behaviour, the great majority of the ploughmen and servant lasses who attend those feeing fairs, and share in the exuberant hilarities, know very well how to take care of themselves. It must be taken into consideration that the manners of the country folks are different in degree from those of the denizens of cities and towns. Were certain city belles—modest Flora, for example, who puts the legs of her piano into pretty frilled trousers—present to see their rustic cousins at village dances, feeing fairs,

harvest homes, etc., how their feelings of propriety would be shocked.

The ploughmen of the parish at the present day, however, have, by the cultivation of their minds and morals, elevated their characters and increased their power far beyond the time when the poet depicted them thus—

“ They toil, they eat, they sleep : what then ?
Why, wake to toil and sleep again.”

VILLAGE CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS.

GARGUNNOCK FARMERS' CLUB.

THE oldest club we have any record of in the parish is that instituted by General John Fletcher Campbell, of Boquhan, in 1794—and who was its first president—called the Gargunnoch Farmers' Club, which embraces the parishes of Gargunnoch, Kippen, Stirling, Fintry, Balfroun, Killearn, Drymen, Port of Menteith, Kincardine, Kilmadock, and that part of St. Ninians west of a line from the port of Stirling, south to Gillies Hill, and from thence, west the north side of Touch Hill until it meets the parish of Gargunnoch. In 1807 General Campbell bequeathed to this club the sum of £500, the interest of which is laid out in promoting the object of the institution. At first the members of the society met at Boquhan and other places for the purpose of discussing matters of interest concerning agriculture, and in 1796 we find members agreeing to send two or more horses, carts, and drivers, if called upon, to assist His Majesty's troops into the adjoining counties. A match was also resolved upon for the ploughing of lea, which ultimately took place the following year, the date and place of match being advertised at the kirk doors of the different parishes in which the club was concerned. It was stipulated that the furrows were to be 8½ inches broad and 4½ inches deep. The first prize was a watch with engraving on back, value £4 5s., and was won by Henry Redpath ; second prize, watch with engraving on back, value £3 1s., won by — Chrystal. Subsequently it

was resolved to hold two ploughing matches annually, one for lea ploughing in early spring, and the other for fallow ploughing in July. No suitable fallow land, however, could be found, and ultimately a competition for making turnip drills took place at Rashiehill on 26th May, 1807. In the following year a prize was offered for the best bull over three years old, to be shown and judged at a turnip drill competition taking place at Craighead on 13th June, 1808, the prize-winning animal to be at the service of members' stock. It is recorded that only one bull appeared at this competition. Later, prizes were offered for young stock, both cattle and horses, to be shown and judged at Kippen Fair, and success attending this effort the event has now become an annual show of live stock and dairy produce, held in the first week of June in a field near Kippen Station, adjoining Boquhan House.

OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE, 1902.

President :

Sir Alan Seton-Steuart, Bart., Touch.

Vice-President :

Colonel S. Home-Drummond of Blair Drummond.

Secretary and Treasurer : John Risk, Culmore.

Committee :

Robert Mailer, Redhall.	Alex. Inglis, Kepdarroch.
John Muirhead, Hillhead.	John Mailer, Woodyett.
John Murray, Munnieston.	James Paterson, Burnbank.
R. Downie, Knock o' Ronald.	Alex. Moir, Nether Carse.

The following gentlemen have held office as Secretary of the Club :—

Peter Gordon, Gartmore,	...	...	1796
John Galbraith, Kippen,...	...	...	1799
Rev. Christopher Tait, Kincardine	Manse,		1800
John Leckie, of Broich,	...	...	1812
R. Banks, of Craighead,	...	...	1814
Robert Paterson, Easter Frew,	...	...	1817
John Paterson, Easter Frew,	...	...	1835
John MacNie, Woodyett,...	...	...	1839
Alex. Buchanan, Whitehouse,	...	...	1846
Thomas Leishman, Meiklewood,...	...	...	1857
Matthew C. Stark, Westerton, Doune,	...	...	1883
John Risk, Culmore,	...	...	1902

KIPPEN PARISH HEARSE SOCIETY.

FIRST MEETING HELD IN 1810.

THE proposal to form a society for the purpose of providing a hearse for the parish was mooted at the beginning of the nineteenth century, and a meeting was convened for that purpose in the Parish Church of Kippen on the 28th day of June, 1810. Those present were:—The Rev. P. Macfarlane, Mr. Key, of Wright Park; Mr. Galbraith, of Blackhouse; Messrs. John Zuill, Ladylands; Archd. Cunningham, Arnmore; Andrew Chrystal, Broich; James Dougal, Parks; John M'Lause, Waterside; John M'Nee, Arnmore; John Haldane, Robert Hutton, Alex. Harvie, John Haldane, jun., John Neilson, David Miller, Kippen; Andrew Harvie, Braehead; James Graham, writer, Kippen. Mr. Key, president; Mr. Graham, clerk.

These gentlemen were all subscribers to a previous collection, or fund, raised within the parish for the right of recommending two patients annually to the Glasgow Infirmary. The minute of this meeting bears that "Mr. Macfarlane stated to the meeting that the sum collected by the elders and others within the parish, and the money sent to himself by non-residing heritors and others, amounted to £53 16s. 6d., the total subscriptions made to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary; that of that sum £38 9s. had been transmitted by John Leckie, Esq., of Broich, conform to the preceding state, and that the balance from thence arising, being £15 7s. 6d., had been deposited by Mr. Macfarlane in the Stirling Bank. The meeting unanimously resolve that the above balance of £15 7s. 6d. shall continue to lye in the said bank as the beginning of a fund for purchasing a parish hearse, and the subscription papers, with the bank receipt for said balance, indorsed by Mr. Macfarlane, the meeting direct to be given to Mr. Graham to take charge of them."

It was also resolved to issue subscription papers, in order to raise a fund adequate for purchasing a hearse, and also a piece of ground, and erecting thereon a suitable



THE CROSS, KIPPEN.

house for its reception. The following committee was appointed to report progress at some future meeting:—Mr. Graham (convener), Mr. Key, Mr. Galbraith, Mr. John Zuill, Mr. John Haldane, jun.; Messrs. John Cassels, Kepp; Charles Stewart, jun., and Walter M'Gibbon, Buchlyvie.

NINE YEARS LATER.

The next meeting we find noticed was held some nine years later, the minute being dated, Kippen, 10th January, 1819. There were present on this occasion: Mr. Galbraith, of Blackhouse; Mr. Key, of Wright Park; Mr. Graham, of Arnfinley; the Rev. Mr. Anderson; Mr. John Zuill, Ladylands; Mr. Wm. Graham, Moreston; Mr. Graham, writer, Kippen; Mr. Galbraith (president). Mr. Graham stated that the £15 7s. 6d., with £1 1s. afterwards received from Mr. Wright, had accumulated to the amount of £21 18s. 9d., and for £21 thereof he laid a bank receipt before the meeting. After some further business, the meeting recommended Messrs. Key and Graham to obtain a report from tradesmen as to the expense of building a hearse of two wheels with suitable furniture, and also to obtain a report as to the expense of building a house for such hearse, and to ascertain if Mr. Cassels would give a site gratis for building the same thereon.

SIXTEEN YEARS PASS.

After a further lapse of sixteen years we find the following meeting minuted:—"At Kippen, and within the Parish Church, on this 24 day of March, 1835 years, convened in consequence of the intimation aftermentioned, viz.:—Present, Dr. Weir, Messrs. John Cassels, David Graham of Kirkhill, John Haldane, George Graham, Alex. Harvie, Robert Galbraith, Robert Thomson, Andrew Doig, James Graham, Walter Moir, John Dougal, Alex. Risk, John Rennie, James M'Farlane, Robert Hutton, Robert Dougal, and John Galbraith. John Cassels produced mandates from 28 subscribers, not present, who reside in the western part of the parish. The Convener was

appointed preses. Dr. Weir moved that an addition should be made to the former committee, which motion being seconded by Mr. Cassels, the following individuals are hereby appointed, viz., Andrew Forrester, Esq., of Arngibbon; William Key, of Wright Park; John Edmond, of Newburn; John Cassels, of Arnprior; Alexander Harvie, Kippen; Doctor Weir, Kippen; William Hutton, Burnside; Robert Galbraith, Kippen; David Harvie, wright, Buchlyvie; James Risk, of Dunston." Reports regarding the cost of a hearse were submitted to this meeting, when it is duly minuted that, "In regard that the former reports by Messrs. Graham, Buchanan, and others regarding the expense of a hearse are held by the meeting to be extravagantly high, and that a site for a hearse house, with a hearse, and all its furniture, can now be obtained at less expense."

The committee were empowered to make further inquiries, and report at meeting to be held within the church on the first Monday of May, and, accordingly, on Monday, 3rd May, 1835, they again met. Only one estimate, that from Messrs. Thomson & Buchanan, was given in, which stated that they would make a substantial hearse for £75. The meeting, however, came to no definite decision other than to circulate a further supply of subscription papers throughout the parish.

Some delay, however, arose at this stage owing to the death of Mr. David Graham, chairman of the committee, the documents belonging to the Hearse Fund being in the hands of Mr. William Hutton, writer in Stirling, agent for Mr. Graham's representatives.

A NEW CHAIRMAN APPOINTED.

We also find minutes of a meeting, which read thus:—"Upon the 13th day of February, 1836, and within the Parish Church of Kippen—present, Messrs. John Cassels, Kepp; John Edmond, Newburn; Wm. Haldane, Thos. Weir, surgeon, Alex. Junkine, Alexander Harvie, James M'Donald, surgeon, James Graham, Alex. Buchanan, and John Rennie, Kippen—the meeting appoint, in place of

the deceased Mr. Graham, John Edmond as Chairman, John Cassels and Wm. Hutton as Vice-Chairmen, with full powers to call meetings; also empowers the chairman to call upon the heritors at their meeting and get up from them the money in their hands. Mr. James Graham was also appointed to wait upon Mr. Hutton, Stirling, and get from him the papers belonging to the subscribers."

PROGRESS.

The providing of a hearse for the parish, which had taken almost twenty-six years to accomplish, began now to assume a more practical form, as we find from the following minute:—"At Kippen, within the Parish Church, the 18th June, 1836—present, Messrs. John Edmond, John Cassels, Wm. Hutton, Alex. Harvie, Alex. Risk, James M'Farlane, John Haldane, Robert Hutton. David Risk, John Fisher, James Kerr, John Rennie, Wm. M'Alpine, Robert Galbraith, Thos. Weir, Jas. M'Donald, Alex. M'Allister, Arch. Russel, James Wright, and James Graham. The committee stated that they some time ago, through their chairman, Mr. John Edmond, agreed with Messrs. Thomson & Buchanan, in Stirling, to make a hearse for the sum of fifty pounds sterling."

Rules and regulations for the government of the society were approved of, these stipulating that all persons subscribing towards the purchase of a hearse shall become members, and thereafter a payment of two shillings and sixpence shall qualify for membership; that the hearse shall be at the disposal of members on twenty-four hours' notice, on payment of five shillings; if taken out of the parish one shilling extra will be charged for each additional mile beyond the bounds thereof; and if out for more than twenty-four hours, except in cases of unavoidable accident, a payment of 10s. 6d. shall be made for every day so kept; hearse and harness to be kept in good condition by the society, but if damaged through carelessness, to be made good by user; horse and driver to be provided by user; committee to have discretion to grant hearse free

of charge to poor of parish. The hearse was placed in a house provided by Mr. Cassels, at a yearly rental of £2 10s., the appointment of a man to look after hearse being left with Mr. Cassels.

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE HEARSE TO ARNPRIOR.

For some years afterwards the society seems to have made favourable progress, having a sum amounting to a few pounds lodged to its credit in the bank, but at a meeting held in Arnprior School, on 10th August, 1850, it was reported that there was a balance of £2 19s. 9d. against the society in consequence of the tax or duty demanded for the hearse by the collector of assessed taxes for the county. Subscription sheets, together with the money, amounting to £10 3s. 6d., collected for the purpose of paying the duty, were, however, produced. It was then moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed to that the hearse should be removed from the village of Kippen, where it has been kept for some time, to Arnprior, the society undertaking to erect a house for it upon a piece of ground obtained from James Stirling, Esq., of Garden. A sub-committee was appointed to superintend the erection of the house above referred to. The meeting then elected James Sands, chairman; Wm. Ure, vice-chairman; James Zuill, treasurer; John Graham, secretary; members of committee, Robert Bennet, Archibald Murdoch, David Harvie, David Ure, Robert M'Farlane, and Andrew Rennie." At a subsequent meeting, however, the proposal to remove the hearse from Kippen to Arnprior was deferred.

MEETINGS AT KIPPEN.

The general meeting of the society is recorded as having taken place yearly at Arnprior School from 1850 until 1855, while the next meeting recorded is held in the Parish School, Kippen, on the 17th day of March, 1868, when the committee appointed to examine the state of the Kippen parish hearse fund, and to ascertain what

repairs are necessary to be made on the hearse, met, there being present, Dr. M'Donald, chairman; Messrs. John Buchanan, George Harvie, Robert Dougal and Andrew Rennie. This committee having examined the hearse, found that it required considerable repairs, and on the 12th day of July, 1869, the committee again met at Kippen to consider what measures were to be taken for repairing the hearse—present: Dr. M'Donald, treasurer; J. Graham, secretary; Messrs. John Buchanan, Robert Dougall, sen., Andrew Rennie, and Robert Dougall, jun. A resolution was adopted to instruct David Cook, wright, Kippen, to make the necessary repairs on the hearse, and paint and varnish same. The secretary, Mr. John Graham, paid over the balance in his hand in favour of the society, and Mr. John Buchanan was thereafter elected secretary. The society again made headway under the chairmanship of Dr. M'Donald, and on his demise the chairmanship was taken by Robert Dougall, sen., in 1876.

In 1881 Mr. John Dougall was appointed secretary and treasurer, but the repairing of house for hearse, along with the execution of some repairs, including the painting and varnishing of hearse, placed a balance on the wrong side of the society, and at a meeting convened on 20th September, 1888, Mr. Dougall refunded the small sum which had been allowed him for his services, so as to enable the tradesmen's account to be settled. At this meeting Mr. Robert Dougall, postmaster, was elected secretary and treasurer, and he advanced a sum to wipe off the balance due by the society.

RECENT CHANGES.

Compared with the more modern vehicle, the Kippen parish hearse is now looked upon as being cumbersome and ancient in design, and is only used by those resident in the village. The fact of the burying ground being now located at some distance from the village necessitates its use amongst the villagers more than hitherto; while those resident outwith the village generally obtain a more up-to-date hearse from jobmasters in Stirling and other places.

CURLING CLUBS.

THERE are three Curling Clubs in the parish, of which the oldest is the

KIPPEN CURLING CLUB.

Instituted in 1838.

CARDROSS AND KEPP CURLING CLUB.

Instituted in 1860.

BUCHLYVIE CURLING CLUB.

Instituted in 1860.

Each club is provided with an excellent pond for the prosecution of this jovial game.

Kippen Curling Club, which has a splendid pond constructed on the village common, is composed of a large membership of enthusiastic and keen curlers. It is worthy of mention that the Kippen curlers have earned a reputation for miles around as skilful exponents of the "roarin' game," having gained, since admission into the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, twenty-two of that Society's medals out of a possible twenty-nine. A large number of prizes, including several medals, are competed for annually amongst its members; while other competitions are engaged in with keen rivalry. A poet aptly represents them in the following lines:—

" And they battle for the glory o' auld Kippen
 ilka man,
 And the battle's a' the harder if the rink's
 a' ae clan,
 And they tak' a pride in showin' ony trophy
 they may win,
 Tae the risin' generation, and the elders
 o' their kin."

KIPPEN CURLING CLUB.

INSTITUTED IN 1838. ADMITTED TO R.C.C.C. 1843.

OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE, 1838.

President :

Henry Fletcher Campbell, Esq., of Boquhan.

Vice-President : William Key, Esq., of Wright Park.*Secretary :* James Forrester, of Polder.*Treasurer :* Alexander Buchanan, Kippen.*Members of Committee.*

Robert Greig.

James Millar.

James Mackieson.

William Johnstone.

And eleven regular members and nineteen occasional.

OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE, 1902.

Patrons :

John Monteath, Esq., J.P., of Wright Park.

Stephen Mitchell, Esq., J.P., of Boquhan.

Honorary Members :

Admiral Campbell, R.N., C.B., Wimbledon Lodge, London.

John Dougall, Peebles. | James Mackieson, Kippen.

William Dobbie, Kippen.

President :

Dr. Macdiarmid, J.P., Oakbank.

Vice-President :

John Monteath, Esq., J.P., of Wright Park.

Representative Members :

William M'Queen, Shirgarton.

Thomas Welsh, Beechwood.

Chaplain :

Rev. J. G. Dickson, M.A., Kippen.

Treasurer and Secretary :

Robert Buchanan, Cross Keys Hotel.

Council of Management.

Dr. Macdiarmid.

Alexander Scouler.

John Harvie.

John Paterson.

Robert Buchanan.

William M'Queen.

Thomas Welsh.

CARDROSS AND KEPP.

INSTITUTED IN 1860. ADMITTED INTO R.C.C.C. 1860.

OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE, 1902.

Patron :

H. D. Erskine, Esq., of Cardross.

Patroness :

Lady Horatia Erskine.

President :

James Stirling, Esq., J.P., of Garden.

Vice-President :

Andrew Dewar, Arnprior.

Representative Members :

Luke Taylor, Arnprior. | John Mackay, Brucehill.

Chaplain :

Rev. J. G. Dickson, M.A., Kippen.

Treasurer and Secretary :

James Gardner, Schoolhouse, Arnprior.

Ice Master :

John Wright, Arnprior.

*Council of Management :*Peter Armstrong.
A. M. Blair.
James Dougall.
John Mackay.Peter Dewar.
Alex. Napier.
Alex. Cross.
John Wright.

Luke Taylor.

Honorary Member :

H. D. Erskine, Esq., of Cardross.

PLOUGHING SOCIETIES.

ARNPRIOR AND DISTRICT PLOUGHING SOCIETY.

NO records have been kept relating to the institution of this society, but it is believed to have been inaugurated in 1860. It has for its object the encouragement and promotion of the art of ploughing in the district, and is confined to a radius of four miles from Kippen Cross. A competition is held alternately on carse and dryfield lands, silver cups, medals, and other trophies being given annually for work done by the different grades of ploughs in use at the present time.

OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE, 1902.

President :

Stephen Mitchell, Esq., of Boquhan.

Vice-Presidents :

James Gray, Birkenwood. | John More, Fordhead.

Secretary :

D. J. Muirhead, Middleton of Garden.

Treasurer :

Robert Jackson, Mains of Boquhan.

Committee :

Andrew Main, Strewiebank.	Daniel Paterson, Drum.
George Graham, Faraway.	Wm. M'Queen, Shirgarton.
John Risk, Culmore.	Wm. Wilson, Fairfield.
Robert Muirhead, Causeway- head.	David Black, South Flanders.

THE KIPPEN AND DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB.

THE object of this club is to hold occasional meetings, at such times and places as may from time to time be found most convenient, for the discussion of all matters bearing on farming interests and agriculture generally. The office-bearers when the club was instituted in 1894 were:—President, John Drysdale, Fairfield; secretary and treasurer, Alex. Scouler, Middlekerse.

OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE, 1902.

President :

John Monteath, Esq., of Wright Park.

Vice-Presidents :

Dr. Macdiarmid, Oakbank.

Robert Jackson, Mains of Boquhan.

Secretary :

Alexander Scouler, Middlekerse.

Treasurer :

Thomas Syme, Strathview.

Committee :

Thomas Hall, Boquhan.	Duncan M'Owan, Bridge of
Jas. Paterson, Wester Frew.	Frew.
John Black, South Flanders.	William Hallum, Crawford-
James Gray, Birkenwood.	stone.
John More, jun., Fordhead.	Samuel M'Queen, Shirgarton.
John Harvie, Rosebank.	

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

KIPPEN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Instituted in 1885.

BUCHLYVIE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Instituted in 1886.

THESE societies have had a marked effect on the cultivation of cottage gardens in the locality, encouraging the production of a superior class of vegetables, flowers, etc. An exhibition of flowers, fruit, vegetables, dairy produce, and honey is held annually in each village, upwards of £40 being offered by the Kippen Horticultural Society in addition to prizes in kind, etc.

FIRST OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE KIPPEN
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.*President :*

Thos. A. Anderson, of Shirgarton.

Secretary :

John Dougall, Main Street.

Treasurer :

Robert Dougall, Post Office.

PATRONESES, PATRONS, AND OFFICE-
BEARERS IN 1902.*Patronesses :*

Mrs. Mitchell, Boquhan	Mrs. Anderson, Shirgarton.
Mrs. Monteath, Wright Park.	Mrs. Dickson, Kippen Manse.
Mrs. Moore, Arngibbon.	Miss Clark, Benview, Kippen.
Miss Monteath, Wright Park.	Mrs. Gordon, Am Bruaich.
Mrs. Stirling, Garden.	Mrs. J. W. Campbell, Glentirran Lodge.
Mrs. Colville, Arngomery.	Mrs. Paul, Glentirran Lodge.
Mrs. Hunter, U.F. Manse.	
Mrs. Cameron, Kirkhill.	

Patrons :

Stephen Mitchell, Esq., of Boquhan.	Rev. Henry W. Hunter, U.F. Manse.
James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.	Dr. Macdiarmid, Oakbank.
J. A. Harvie Brown, Esq., of Quarter and Shirlarton.	Arch. Colville, Esq., of Arngomery.
John Monteath, Esq., of Wright Park.	Alex. Moore, Esq., of Arngibbon.
William Forrester, Esq., of Arngibbon.	Alex. Paul, Esq., of Glentirran Lodge.
Andrew Dougall, Esq., of Angustep.	George Gordon, Esq., of Am Bruaich.
D. Y. Cameron, Esq., of Kirkhill.	James Hunter, Esq., Schoolhouse.
J. W. Campbell, Esq., of Glentirran.	Rev. D. R. Kilpatrick, Dunallan.
Rev. John G. Dickson, The Manse.	Arch. Williamson, Esq., Aberdour.

President :

Stephen Mitchell, Esq., of Boquhan.

Vice-President :

Thomas Welsh, Beechwood.

Secretary and Treasurer :

Robert Dougall, Post Office.

Members of Committee :

Thomas Hall, Boquhan.	William Stirling, Kippen Station.
Peter M'Cowan, Arngomery.	
John Robertson, Shirlarton.	David Young, Claylands.
Arch. Gray, Wright Park.	James M'Ewen, Settie.
John Allan, Gateside.	George Watson, Main Street.
John M'Lean, Main Street.	Robert Stewart, Oxhill.
Wm. Chrystal, Oxhill.	

KIPPEN AND DISTRICT BURNS CLUB.

THE parish is not without its hero-worshippers, and in 1896—the centenary of the poet's death—the Kippen and District Burns Club was instituted, and in 1900, four years afterwards, affiliated with the Kilmarnock Burns Federation. Anniversary celebrations, however, were held for a considerable number of years previous to this. In an account of the national celebration of the centenary of the poet's birth, on 25th January, 1859, the author of "Burns in Stirlingshire" says, "A number of the inhabitants of Kippen met together to unite their sentiments of sympathy and concord with their fellow-countrymen throughout the land in doing honour to the memory of Scotland's immortal bard. The utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed. A number of speeches were delivered on topics connected with the prosperity and welfare of Scotland, several songs from the works of Burns were sung, and the whole proceedings were such as to leave a pleasant impression on the minds of all who were present." He also states that "The members of the Buchlyvie Mutual Improvement Society met, along with a few friends, in the Public School, which was most tastefully decorated. Mr. John Robertson, who occupied the chair, proposed the Immortal Memory. Other addresses on Burns were given, and an ode, composed for the occasion by Mr. P. Dun, stationmaster, Port of Menteith, was recited by him." The Kippen and District Burns Club prospered, with almost a hundred members, for about five years after its inauguration, but, owing to some slight differences having arisen amongst its officials, in 1901 another club was formed. Besides celebrating the anniversary of the poet's birthday by a social festival, the club gives prizes annually to children attending school for singing and reciting pieces from the poet's works. The production of original poetry in the Scottish dialect is also encouraged among its members by offering prizes for the best production.

Office-bearers in 1896 : President, John Drysdale, Fairfield ; vice-president, John Harvie, Burnside ; secretary, William Chrystal, Oxhill.

OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE, 1901.

President :

Duncan Buchanan, Forth Vineyards.

Vice-President :

Robert Jackson, Boquhan.

Secretary :

William Chrystal, Oxhill.

Committee :

John Drysdale, Arngibbon.	John Montgomery, Buchlyvie.
Alexander Scouler, Middlekerse.	David Young, Claylands.
W. J. Buchanan, Forth Vineyards.	Thomas Syme, Arngomery.
Robert Chrystal, Fore Road.	Samuel Thomson, Pointend.
John M'Lean, Main Street.	Thomas Inglis, Burnside.

OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE, 1902.

President :

Robert Jackson, Boquhan.

Vice-President :

Andrew Main, Strewiebank.

Secretary :

Thomas Syme, Strathview.

Committee :

John Syme, Arngomery.	Alexander Davidson, Cauldhame.
Peter Matson, Cauldhame.	Samuel Thomson, Pointend.
John Allan, Gateside.	Alexander Trotter, Cauldhame.
George M'Queen, Kirkhill.	Archibald Gray, Redgatehill.
George Hay, Burnside.	D. J. Muirhead, Garden.
George Watson, The Cross.	
David Young, Claylands.	

KIPPEN HIGHLAND GATHERING.

THROUGH the efforts of John Monteath, Esq., Wright Park ; Dr. Macdiarmid, Oakbank, and several other local gentlemen, Highland Games were instituted in 1898, and have since been held annually in a field adjoining the village. A large sum is offered in prize-money, with the result that these Games are attended by competitors from all quarters. Though so recently instituted, these sports have already gained a wide popularity, handsome prizes being offered for events open to all comers, while a number of contests are confined to a radius of twelve miles from Kippen Cross.

OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE, 1902.

Chieftain :

John Monteath, Esq., Wright Park.

Captain :

Dr. Macdiarmid, Oakbank.

Secretary : William Dougall, Post Office.*Treasurer :* Alexander Scouler, Middlekerse.*Committee :*

Duncan Buchanan, Forth Vineyard.	Stephen Mitchell, Boquhan.
William J. Buchanan, Forth Vineyard.	A. Moore, jun., Arngibbon.
D. Y. Cameron, Kirkhill.	A. Paul, Glentirran.
J. W. Campbell, Glentirran.	Wm. M'Queen, Shirgarton.
Arch. Colville, Arngomery.	Thomas Welsh, Beechwood.
Peter Dewar, Kepp.	David Welsh, Burnside.
Rev. J. G. Dickson, The Manse.	Luke Taylor, Arnprior.
John Drysdale, Townhead.	G. R. Watson, Kippen.
Wm. Forrester, Arngibbon.	A. Davidson, Kippen.
George Gordon, Am Bruaich.	R. Jackson, Boquhan.
Rev. H. W. Hunter, U.F. Manse.	Thomas Syme, Kippen.
	Peter M'Cowan, Arngomery.
	John Wright, Arnprior.
	W. J. Paul, Glentirran.

KIPPEN READING AND RECREATION CLUB.

THE duty of furthering the moral and social elevation of the villagers has not been overlooked, and in 1901, through the painstaking interest taken in the welfare of the community by the Rev. J. G. Dickson, The Manse; Messrs. D. Y. Cameron, Kirkhill; George Gordon, Am Bruaich, and others, a cheap, healthy, recreative, and pleasurable resort is provided in the winter months for edification and amusement. The Public Hall being engaged for that purpose, is open five nights a-week from 7 till 10 o'clock. In addition to numerous rational and refined amusements, books, periodicals, newspapers, etc., are provided for the members. Since its inauguration it has proved to be of inestimable value to the district, by helping to relieve some of the dulness and dreariness which exists in the long winter nights, especially amongst the working classes, in almost every country village. Among other benefits it tends to bring the villagers together, keeps them from the corners of the streets, and therefore out of the way of temptation and bad influences, and thus, by giving its patrons opportunity for the proper education and broadening of their minds, the general tone of the inhabitants is sought to be elevated, to the mutual advantage of all.

OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE, 1902.

Convener : Rev. J. G. Dickson, The Manse.

Vice-Convener : D. Y. Cameron, Esq., Kirkhill.

Secretary and Treasurer : Mr. J. Hunter, Schoolhouse.

Committee :

Dr. Macdiarmid, Oakbank.	Arch. Macdiarmid, Renton Cottage.
George Gordon, Am Bruaich.	J. Gilchrist, jun., Aros House.
Rev. H. W. Hunter, U.F. Manse.	G. R. Watson, Main Street.
W. Buchanan, Forth Vineyard.	Thomas Welsh, Beechwood.
John Robertson, Shirgarton.	D. Macdiarmid, Cauldhame.
Andrew Kay, Little Kerse.	Alex. Welsh, Burnside.
William Chrystal, Oxhill.	D. Dingwall, Kippen Station.
Peter M'Cowan, Arngomery.	Sam. M'Queen, Shirgarton.
William Dougall, Post Office.	Alex. Davidson, Cauldhame.



MAIN STREET, BUCHLYVIE, LOOKING WEST, WITH PUBLIC HALL.

BUCHLYVIE.

THE village of Buchlyvie, nicely situated almost at the extreme end of Kippen Parish, commanding extensive views of the Menteith Hills, Ben Lomond, and Ben Ledi, was founded in the early years of the seventeenth century. It has the largest population of any barony in the "Kingdom," the population in 1901 being 320.

MINISTERIAL.

Created a *quoad sacra* parish in 1876, Buchlyvie had, until the recent union of the United Presbyterian and Free Church congregations, three places of worship. The present United Free Church was built in 1751, a short time after the Secession, which took place from the National Church at Stirling, led by Ebenezer Erskine. Principally owing to the energy of the late Rev. James Berry, for 39 years the devoted and respected minister of the congregation, the interior of the church was renovated and reconstructed in 1890. The Seceders designated themselves the Associate Synod, later the Relief Church, then the United Presbyterian Church, which in 1901, together with the Free Church, became the United Free.

MINISTERS, 1903.

Established Church—Rev. JOHN A. MACDONALD.

United Free Church—Rev. G. W. S. COWIE.

INDUSTRY.

The industry of the district is wholly agricultural, the soil of a large portion being of a cold and sterile nature. Great advance, however, has been made, both as to improving the soil and cultivation of the crops, since the time when Sir Walter Scott sojourned with the ancient family of Graham, at Gartmore House, while he was preparing material for "Rob Roy."

PUBLIC HALL.

At the west end of the village a fine hall, with ample accommodation, was erected in 1884 through the munificence of the late Alexander Harvie, Glasgow, a native of the village.

BANKING.

Financial matters are conducted in splendid buildings through a branch of the Bank of Scotland, with a well-equipped staff.

PLACES OF INTEREST.

Among the places of interest are :—

Ballochneck, at one time the residence of Lennie, the famous grammarian. It was here he wrote "Lennie's Grammar," and it is said that he travelled to Edinburgh periodically with his books, remaining several days selling them himself. The present proprietor of Ballochneck is Mr. William M'Onie.

To the north of the Fairy Knowe, adjacent to the farm of Mains, is the spot where the mansion of the Baron o' Buchlyvie stood. The Fairy Knowe, or Knoll, about forty yards in diameter, is said to have been used as a Druidical temple.

Garry's Hole, a subterranean den lying to the south of the village, is said to be where one Garry carried on an extensive working still in smuggling days.

Buchlyvie has, in addition to the ploughing, curling, and other societies under-mentioned, numerous clubs and associations, including a horticultural society, library, mutual improvement society, quoiting, draughts, football, and summer ice clubs.

BUCHLYVIE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

FOLLOWING the institution of ploughing matches in the neighbourhood by the Gargunnoch Farmers' Club, a society was formed in Buchlyvie in 1835, named the Buchlyvie Agricultural Association, for the purpose of discussing matters for the encouragement and interest of agriculture and the general good of the country, and among other matters to have an annual competition for ploughing, open to members, who must reside within a radius of two miles of the village of Buchlyvie. The first competition was held at Blairgorts on 5th March, 1835, the winner of the first prize at this match being Alexander

Risk, Cashley. The society continued the match annually on the same lines until 1842, when the district was extended to all tenants on the estate of Gartmore. Subsequently, in 1846, prizes were offered for the best bull, and the growing of turnips and potatoes. The following year a regular cattle show was instituted. The ploughing match and cattle show were carried on by the society annually until the disastrous time of the cattle plague, which occurred in the sixties, when the ploughing match was dropped, the members then deciding to hold a cattle show only, which is still successfully carried on, being held annually in a field near the village of Buchlyvie. It now embraces a much wider area for members than formerly, consisting of the parishes of Kippen, Fintry, Balfron, Killearn, Drymen, Aberfoyle, Port of Menteith, Gargunock, and Kilmaronock, and keen competition is annually witnessed for prizes offered in the numerous classes.

The first president of this society was William Lennie, Esq., of Ballochneck, compiler of the well-known "Lennie's Grammar," the secretary being Mr. Alexander Dun, Kerp-dowrie.

OFFICE-BEARERS, 1902.

President :

Daniel Fisher, Esq., of Ballamenoch.

Vice-Presidents :

James Stirling, Esq., of Garden.
 William M'Onie, Esq., of Ballochneck.
 Sir C. W. Cayzer, M.P., Gartmore.
 Stephen Mitchell, Esq., of Boquhan.
 John Stroyan, Esq., M.P., Ochtertyre.
 James M'Killop, Esq., M.P., Polmont Park.
 Euing R. Crawford, Esq., of Auchentroig.

Secretary :

Daniel Fisher, Garchel.

Treasurer :

James M'Phie, jun., Buchlyvie.

BUCHLYVIE AND DISTRICT PLOUGHING SOCIETY.

In 1891 a new and independent society was formed for holding ploughing competitions, and named the Buchlyvie and District Ploughing Society, confining the residence of its membership to the *quoad sacra* parish of Buchlyvie, but in 1897 it extended its area so as to embrace eleven parishes, being now open to the counties of Stirling, Perth, and Dumbarton, and valuable prizes are offered for competition.

OFFICE-BEARERS, 1902.

President : Bailie William M'Lay, Glasgow.

Vice-President : Euing R. Crawford, Esq., of Auchentroig.

Joint Secretaries :

James M'Phie, jun., and John Milne, Buchlyvie.

Treasurer : D. H. Mack, Buchlyvie.

BUCHLYVIE, FINTRY, AND VALE OF MENTEITH HORSE-BREEDING ASSOCIATION.

THIS society came into existence on 19th November, 1892. A meeting of those interested in the formation of a horse-breeding society was held in the Public Hall, Buchlyvie, at which there were nineteen gentlemen present, representative of the different districts proposed to be embraced by the society. Mr. Fisher of Ballamenoch was called to the chair. It was unanimously agreed to form a horse-breeding society, to be called the Buchlyvie, Fintry, and Vale of Menteith Horse-Breeding Society, the district to comprise the parishes of Port of Menteith, Kippen, Aberfoyle, Fintry, Balfron, and eastern district of Drymen.

The objects of the society were to promote and further the breeding of Clydesdale horses within its bounds, by placing within the reach of members the services of a Clydesdale stallion, to be engaged by the society annually

to travel in the district, on such terms and conditions as may from time to time be arranged.

Mr. Fisher of Ballamenoch was unanimously elected president, an office which he has held till the present year; Mr. William Smith, Auchentroig, vice-president; and Mr. Andrew Dewar, Arnprior, secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Dewar held office as secretary till the present year, when he expressed a wish to be relieved, and Mr. John Drysdale, Arngibbon, was unanimously elected in his stead. The following were elected members of committee for the first year, viz., Messrs. Alexander Cowan, Fintry; John M'Gibbon, Faraway; William Wood, Gartmore; William M'Keich, Woodend; John Drysdale, Fairfield; James Dougall, Blaircessnock; Alex. Cowbrough, Malling; William Fisher, Garchell; Andrew Graham, Tombreck; Robert More, Mains; John More, Fordhead; A. M. Blair, Arnmore.

By the formation of this society great stimulus was given to horse-breeding in the district, and that the society has faithfully carried out the objects it set itself is evidenced by the fact that some of the finest specimens of the Clydesdale breed have in recent years been bred in the society's district by its members, the progeny of horses engaged by the society. Mr. Drysdale, Arngibbon, who was the moving spirit in getting the society formed, has great reason to be gratified with the success which has resulted. The society has invariably been fortunate in the selection of its stallions, having had the services of some of the most noted prize-winning animals of the day, notably the famous "Royal Gartly," the winner of the Champion Cawdor Cup, and his no less notable son, "Royal Favourite," bred and owned by Mr. Dewar, for which a *bona fide* offer of £3,000 was made a few months ago. Whilst all the most enterprising tenant farmers in the district have gladly availed themselves of the advantages placed within their reach through the agency of this society, the fact has to be deplored that many others cling to their ancient customs, preferring to use what are termed "poaching horses," provided the service fee is low enough

(this, and not the merits of the animal, being the paramount consideration), rather than have the use of some of the finest sires of the day at an initial expenditure of one or two pounds more, with the almost certain prospect of obtaining ten, twenty, fifty, or even hundreds of pounds more for the progeny, as has been borne out in actual experience in their midst and before their eyes.

BUCHLYVIE CURLING CLUB.

INSTITUTED IN 1860. ADMITTED INTO R.C.C.C. 1865.

OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE, 1902.

Patrons :

William M'Onie, Esq., Ballochneck House.
Daniel Fisher, Esq., Ballamenoch.
Colonel Euing R. Crawford, of Auchentroig.

Patroness : Mrs. M'Onie, Ballochneck House.

President : Daniel Fisher, jun., Garchel.

Vice-President : Daniel Kennedy.

Representative Members :

William Bauchop. | Daniel Kennedy.

Chaplains :

Rev. John A. Macdonald. | Rev. G. W. S. Cowie.

Treasurer and Secretary : John Milne.

Council of Management :

Daniel Fisher.	James Weir, jun.
Henry Drysdale.	James Kennedy.
William M'Quiston.	William M'Adam.
William M'Keich.	James M'Farlane.

Duncan M'Farlane.

Honorary Members :

William M'Onie.	Daniel Fisher.
Alexander Dun.	Col. Euing R. Crawford.
Rev. John A. Macdonald.	

VILLAGE COMMON.

TO the south of the village is a large tract of waste land surrounding the arable possessions of the feuars and others, known as the "Common," or "Commonry," and which originally belonged to the feuars and villagers as Crown lands. One of the most serious chapters in the history of our legislators has been the gradual expropriation of these commons from the working classes, as, originally self-appointed to guard and maintain the rights of the inhabitants of the manors, the administrators of the law have used their power to despoil the feuars of their rightful inheritance. The lawyers, "the conservators of ancient barbarism," as Carlyle truly termed them, were good enough to tell the landlord that all uncultivated land within the manor was his property, subject, of course, to the rights of the commoners. These preservers of the peace and champions of law and order have indeed "respected" these rights, and in several instances overreached them. The matter is neatly put in the following well-known lines :

" It is a sin in man or woman
To steal a goose from off the common ;
But what shall be that man's excuse
Who steals the common from the goose ? "

DASHER COMMON.

At one time the common belonging to the Barony of Dasher, otherwise the village of Kippen, reached as far back over the hill known as the Black Brae as it was possible for the feuars to travel till the weathercock on the top of the old belfry in the churchyard was lost to sight, that constituting the march to the south. We find, however, from documents and charters in the possession of Mr. Robert Dougal, Castlehill, that a contract or exchange was made between the feuars and the proprietor of Boquhan for the southern part of the common, in the

Barony of Dasher, the portion conceded by the feuars being that part on the south side of the road leading to Wright Park. Mr. Dougal has also in his possession a sketch drawn by James Auld, Kippen, dated 10th Feb., 1817, giving the measurement of the existing common as 9 acres 24 falls 23 ells. About this period a request was made by Mr. A. Littlejohn, writer, Stirling, craving liberty from the feuars to plant a number of trees on the common, but the feuars refused this request, believing, no doubt, that ample concessions had already been made.

The curling ponds and curlers' house of the Kippen Curling Club are constructed on Dasher Common.

SHIRGARTON COMMON.

Some distance west from the Dasher Common is the one known as the Shirgarton Common, comprising a piece of waste land extending across that part known as the Redgatehill. This common, being in the Barony of Shirgarton, is entirely in Perthshire, and the feu charters and title deeds in possession of the feuars distinctly specify their right to quarry stones and mortar for building purposes, cut turf and fail in the commons of the respective baronies in which they are situated, as also the casting or digging of peats in the portions of the peat moss belonging to the various baronies.

VILLAGE GREEN.

A "TIFF" WITH THE LAIRD.

THE plot of ground at the foot of the Burn Loan, adjoining the farmhouse of Burnside, through which, according to an old charter, a highway leads from Burnside to the high street of Castlehill, was granted on lease as a washing or bleaching green to the feuars of Kippen for a term of 500 years by Robert Graham of Gartmore, in 1782, the feuars on their part agreeing to pay sixpence yearly. We can, however, find no account of this rent

having ever been collected. Originally this washing green was double the size that it is at present. Some years after the green was acquired, at a meeting of feuars convened for the purpose, it was agreed to enclose the eastern half, or portion, of the green with a thorn hedge, and thus fulfil the double purpose of preventing the inroad of cattle and other animals, while at the same time affording the villagers a means of hanging clothes on to dry. The feuars, having purchased the thorn plants, planted the hedge three feet from the march, on their own property, with a view to enabling them to have a footpath on the other side, and giving them access to articles that might be blown off, and also in order to keep the hedge properly trimmed.

On 10th February, 1842, a public meeting of the villagers was held on the green for the purpose of appointing a committee to act as caretakers, the following feuars being appointed:—Robert Dougal, John Shirra, James Millar, Robert More, and Alexander Buchanan. Later, a dispute and threatened litigation arose in 1846 between the Laird of Boquhan and the feuars of Kippen regarding the building of a steading wall at Burnside Farm. The laird, holding the opinion that the hedge previously mentioned was a mutual one, proceeded to uproot a portion of it, with the purpose of building a dyke of some yards length on the line of same. The feuars in a body appeared on the scene, and vigorously protested against their hedge being interfered with, and unanimously agreed to institute legal proceedings should the work be persisted in. Operations were at once suspended, the dyke being ultimately built on the laird's own property, three feet from the hedge. Some of the old thorn trees can still be seen growing alongside the dyke.

PUBLIC HALLS.

GILLESPIE MEMORIAL HALL.

THE Gillespie Memorial Hall was erected by Mrs. Honeyman Gillespie, a native of the parish, in memory of her husband, William Honeyman Gillespie, Esq., of Torbanehill, author of "*An a priori* Argument for the Being of God," and other works. This building was originally designed, and, indeed, part of the work commenced, to occupy a feu held as kirk property, adjoining Helensfield House, but, owing to some legal difficulty, it was transferred to the site it now occupies, and the work completed in 1877, at a cost of over £2,000. This site was given free by the Rev. William Wilson, minister of the parish, and mainly owing to his zeal and energy was the work carried through. By a codicil in the late Mrs. Honeyman Gillespie's will certain restrictions have been made as to the purposes of this hall, and it is specially stipulated that in the event of the Church of Scotland becoming disestablished the hall shall then become the property of the Episcopal Church of England. The ante-room of the hall contains a well-selected library, available to villagers and others at a small annual subscription.

KIPPEN PUBLIC HALL.

The enlargement of the Castlehill School in 1897 rendered the old Parish School of no further use, and at this date a number of the villagers formed themselves into a company for the purpose of purchasing "the auld schule" from the School Board, and transforming it into a public hall. This they succeeded in doing, and the hall is now known as the Kippen Public Hall, the promoters by their action having to a certain extent met a long-felt want in the parish.

INNS AND PUBLIC HOUSES.

THESE were very numerous in the village at one time, and at the beginning of the nineteenth century there were no fewer than fifteen vendors of intoxicating liquors. The price of whisky was much lower than now, and we are informed that it contained less injurious constituents than the beverage in use at the present day. Pure malt whisky cost from 7s. 6d. to 8s. per gallon, while a gill of that stimulant could be had in the tap-room of one of these numerous inns, accompanied with cakes and cheese, for the modest sum of threepence.

The principal inn and hostelry in the village was the Black Bull, at present occupied as a private dwelling-house, and known as Black Bull House; the next in importance being the Crown Inn, also now occupied as a dwelling-house, and believed to be the oldest at present in the village. The Cross Keys Inn occupied the same site as at present, while a hostelry occupied the site where the villa of Ben View is now erected, and in the small toll-house, immediately opposite (now used as a coal cellar), drink was also sold, the place being used as a kind of custom or toll-house, and named "The Grotto." The toll-keepers at Castlehill and Broich were also engaged in selling liquor.

At several other houses in the village, too numerous to mention, intoxicants were sold, and rivalry seems to have prevailed amongst the vendors, as it is recorded that one publican bearing the name of Andrew Blair, whose inn was located opposite the present Cross Keys Hotel, had the alluring signboard above his door, "The Cheap Sale Shop." The block of buildings, where the Crown Hotel and posting establishment is at present, did duty as an inn, with schoolhouse attached.

LOCAL WORTHIES.

IN common with other country districts, the "Kingdom" has had its quota of worthies, whose quaint and humorous sayings and doings have been handed down from generation to generation.

ISAAC M'GREGOR.

A SHERIFF COURT WITNESS.

ISAAC M'GREGOR was a simple-minded rustic, of a most obliging disposition, with a vein of sarcastic humour, which he could work with very decided effect when occasion required. He rented a small patch of ground that fringed the Muir of Kippen, part of the estate of Stirling of Garden. Isaac had never seen much of the great world. With a couple of horses he contrived to keep the thatch over his shoulders and the wheels of life in working condition by carrying whisky for the far-famed Kepp distillery, the proprietor of which, the late Mr. Cassels, was distantly related to him. Isaac piqued himself on his knowledge of horses, and was generally his own farrier, whether as respected medical treatment, or arming the hoofs of that noble animal against the tear and wear of the road.

Isaac had been witness to the sale of a horse at the fair of Shandon, which, though sold as sound, turned out afterwards to have some defect in the hoof. An action was raised before the Sheriff, and proof allowed, to show that the disease was of long standing, and that the fault must have been known to the vendor at the time of sale. Isaac was summoned to Dunblane to give evidence before the Sheriff in favour of the defender. The agent employed by the pursuer was as pompous a "quill-driver" as ever scribbled on parchment or small pott. Peter Dudgeon, for that was his name, boasted that he had a more complete knowledge of the English language than any practitioner in sheriff or burgh court, from the Grampians to Cheviot, from his having the whole of Johnson's

dictionary at his finger ends. The words selected by Peter for common use were remarkable more from the quantity of the alphabet employed in their construction than from their adaptation to the idea meant to be conveyed. Peter thought to dash Isaac, and so confuse him at first, that his evidence would want coherence, and therefore be rejected.

The officer called out, "Is Isaac M'Gregor in court?"

"Yes, sir!" shouted Isaac, in a voice like the report of schoolboy artillery.

"Come forward, then."

Peter threw himself back into his seat and looked terror, at the same time displaying a frill of cambric of extraordinary depth and longitude.

"Your name is Isaac M'Gregor—is it?"

"The minister ance ca'd me that, and I haena had ony reason to change't since; but ye needna speir my name, for ye hae kent me ony time this twenty years."

"It is only for the information of the court."

"Gif that be a', you're abler to tell them than I am—you're glibber in the tongue."

"Very well; gentlemen of the court, the deponent's name is Isaac M'Gregor, a most enlightened, raticinating, and philosophic carter, from the bloody mires of Loch Leggan. Notice that, gentlemen! Do you know anything about the vending, transtullation, or transfer of the quadruped in question?"

"I didna bring my dictionary in my pouch this day, or else I micht hae been able to spell your meaning; maybe, my lord judge, ye'll be able to explain what he means, for to me there's just as muckle sense in the blether o' the heather blutter!"

"He means to ask, witness, do you know anything about the sale of the horse, the subject on which you are summoned here."

"Thank you, my lord. Yes, I ken that the horse was selt to Jock Paterson there; and he appeared to me to be weel worth a' the siller he gied for him."

"Well, my sexagenarian friend, Isaac," resumed Peter,

"how do you know, or how can you satisfy your mind as to the validity of the testimony upon which your powers of perception have chosen to arbitrate so temerarily?"

"Och, man! it would tak' you a long time to ken as muckle about horses as I dae; you would need to gang out and eat grass wi' them for seven years, like auld Nebuckadnezzar, afore ye learnt your lesson."

Peter was fairly put out, and got into a violent rage—"My lord, I have asked a plain question, and I must demand a categorical answer, or I shall move that the witness be committed for contempt of court."

"I would advise you, Mr. Dudgeon," said the judge, "to put your questions in a more intelligible shape, and I have no doubt but the witness will give you a respectful answer."

"That sairs ye richt, Peter," said the imperturbable Isaac, "an' gin I had you in the Muir o' Kippen, I would let ye fin' the wecht o' that shakle-bane along the side o' your head, and mak' thae hornshottle teeth in your mouth dance the Dusty Miller. Ony mair to speir, ye manifest piece o' impudence?"

"What do you know about the value of a horse?" resumed Peter.

"I wonder what I should ken about if I didna ken about horse—I may say born and brought up among them—mair than ye can say, Mr. Peter, o' the profession ye hae ta'en by the hand."

"Have you made it your business to become acquainted with the veterinary art, whether as applied to the general anatomy of the horse, or the moral and physical habits of this useful animal? and to attain the requisite degree of knowledge, have you studied carefully the article on that subject in the 'Encyclopedia Britannica?' and, most particularly, as in the minute of detail on this subject, have you bought of your bookseller a copy of the work entitled 'The Horse,' published under the sanction and patronage of the society denominating themselves The Society for Diffusing Useful Knowledge, and made it your study by night and by day?"

"Hech, sirs! nae wonder, Peter, that you're blawing like a bursting haggis, after a' that blatter o' words; you'll hae pitten a' the lair ye e'er got at the college in that speech, I'se warrant; ye mind sin' you and I were at Claymires schule thegither, what a poor, fushionless, whey-faced shawp o' a creature you war, baith in soul and body, and that you couldna spell your ain name!"

"Do you know, then, anything about the diseases that horses are predisposed to?"

"Lang-winded is no' ane o' them at ony rate."

"From your knowledge of the veterinary art, and the profound attention that you have bestowed on the subject, would you presume to say that a horse's hoof might be the seat of any latent, unmanifested ailment, disease, malady, gangrene, or tumour, protected though it be by the crust or wall of the foot, without being visible to the ocular faculty? Now!"

"Did you hear the thunder doon there, lads? Ye may be verra thankfu', Mr. Dudgeon, that ye haena mony teeth left in the front o' your mooth, or thae big words could never hae gotten out."

"Really, Mr. Dudgeon," said the judge, "you are taking up too much of the time of the court by useless preliminaries. If you have any of your young men in court, would you allow one of them to take up the examination?"

"Very well, my lord. William, take up this brief, or case, and further interrogate that incorrigible carter."

"Witness! the next question in my brief, or case—and recollect you are still upon oath—is, Do you suppose it possible for a disease or ailment to exist in the perforating flexor tendon, without immediately manifesting itself in occasioning lameness by its action in the chamber of the hoof?"

"Weel, my lord judge, efter a', are thae twa no' a bonny pair? as the craw said o' his claws."

The Court became perfectly convulsed, so that the sheriff was himself obliged to finish the examination.

A PRACTICAL JOKE.

Isaac had an inveterate prejudice against the medical profession, and only in cases of the last necessity would he permit them to be called in. This prejudice arose from a belief that when subjects could not be procured by means of exhumation, the living were drafted on for the necessary supplies, and artful stratagems employed to inveigle and secure their victims. Any person appearing to be a stranger on the street was marked, and in some quiet place, whither the object was followed, a plaster was stuck over the aperture for breath; or perhaps he was induced on some plausible pretext to adjourn to a tavern and partake of some refreshments, when the liquids offered were sure to be drugged; or, if the person were so regardless as to venture with his seducers within the precincts of the college, he was led into a small apartment which was hung round with attractive pictures, the whole floor of which was one trap door or hatchway, so contrived that on touching a secret spring the unsuspecting victim was in a moment precipitated into a boiling caldron in the vaults beneath.

Possessed with a strong belief in these practices, Isaac kept a sharp look-out in passing the College, which he was obliged to do every night when in Glasgow, as his quarters lay in that direction. On one occasion, as he passed the gateway of the college rather late, he affirmed that "he heard the clinking of a chain coming skelping ower the lintel o' the college entry, and that the cleeks verra nearly grippet him by his haunch buttons."

At another time, Isaac had to visit a friend who lived in Castlepen's Close, a little above Blackfriars Wynd, now Regent Place, about the hour of dismissal of one of the medical classes, and some of his friends, who knew his misgivings, said, "There's a boiling this nicht," * at which Isaac cocked his ears, well knowing its import.

* A belief then prevailed that human bodies served for medical as well as surgical purposes—that they were literally boiled and used in compounding drugs.



FORE ROAD, KIPPIN.

"Just step east the Wynd there, Isaac," said one of the youngsters, "and satisfy yoursel'; just haud your lug close to the wa' o' the College garden, and come back and tell us what sort o' sound ye heard frae the inside."

Isaac was down the stair in a moment, and made his way to the spot, his imagination heated, and prepared to hear what he believed to be transacted within the wall. When he returned, he looked aghast, exclaiming,

"Preserve us a'; gie me a bed wi' you this nicht; I canna gang up the street, for there's the black man* o' the College awa' up to ——; it's verra becomin', I maun say, to hae a blackamoor in that den. Gie me a licht to my bed, lads; I wish I may boo an e'e the nicht."

The young wags, bent on practical mischief, put into the bedroom a black image, set carefully on the head of a clothes press, in such a position that it was sure to catch Isaac's eye in the dawn of the morning. Just as the day began to break, they heard Isaac muttering in horror, apparently rising out of bed. They made towards the apartment, the door of which had purposely been left a little ajar, and there was Isaac standing in the middle of the floor addressing the image, in an attitude of the utmost horror, "Ye black-looking savage, your maister can get naebody in this kintra wi' a white skin on his face to dae his wark, but maun send to the West Indies for the like o' you—an e o' the generation o' worrie-cows, wi' the coom o' your kintra on your face. Come doon and I'll fecht ye; but fling awa' your plasters." The object would not consent by nod or otherwise. "Weel, weel," cries the half-dreaming Isaac, "it's needless for me tae streck ye, for ane that could come through a keyhole, as ye've done, could cast ane o' your brimstane scones on my mouth afore I could come within arm's length o' ye; but sin' I'm to be chokit, whan you're done wi' my body, gie my banes to my brither Jock to be buried at Kippen."

* One of the Professors of the College had a man of colour as body servant.

TWA VERRA BRITHERS.

JEAN CAMERON kept a tavern in the "Kingdom of Kippen." Jean's house was the meeting-place for all the "wet" gentry north of the Bridge of Frew, and as sure as Davie Foster, the bellman, had some roup or strayed calves to cry, did Robin Buchan o' Boquhapple and John Percie of Netherknowe meet on a simmer bees-day o' Kippen, after the fair was over, to communicate to each other the news "frae their ain toon ends." Not till the clock struck twelve would these worthies move, and generally by that time they were so completely intoxicated that they often mistook one another, and answered to each other's names.

The threat of Dr. Campbell and his session of the denial of baptism did not deter these worthies from their potations. "Dr. Campbell no' baptise your wean, Netherknowe!—set him up! Just gang tae the Port of Men-teith, they're no' sae nice there, and you'll get it done without ony trouble."

The road home for both lay for some miles in the same direction, so that they "oxtered" each other along, and when the balance inclined too much in one direction the other opposed an antagonistic force to restore the equilibrium; all this adjustment, however, could not prevent occasional mistakes. One night in particular, Netherknowe got up to the haunches in a clay ditch, and stuck fast, the tenacious till at the bottom holding like glue. Boquhapple tried one arm, then another—would not move. Netherknowe, like a laired stirk, sat motionless, and gave no aid for his own release; his anxious companion made still another effort by putting a foot on each side of the ditch in order to have more power, but equally unsuccessful.

"An' a sorrow to ye, Netherknowe, will ye no' try to help yoursel'—push your feet frae you, man; try to move."

"Na, Johnnie, had I no' better try to draw my feet tae me?"

"Weel, frae ye or tae ye, dae something, man; I hear a fit comin', we'll be perfectly affronted!"

"Just sit thee down (quo' Patience in mud), Robin, and put thy feet in the goat too; there's great beauty in humility."

Robin made another desperate effort to extricate Netherknowe, but, not succeeding, abandoned the attempt in utter despair.

"Weel," says Robin, "after a' this desperate strussel, it's a frien's part to stick by a frien' in distress—I'll just stick wi' ye, Netherknowe—are ye sure ye hae room for anither besides yoursel'?"

"Oh, ay, Robin, man, there's room in't, dear laddie, believe me, for twa." And down did Robin sit, and plunged his feet in the ditch, and stuck by Netherknowe until some neighbours came up and drew the worthies out of their "carse boots."

SANDY MUNCHAUSEN.

IN the thinly populated districts of Scotland, the "Smiddy," after the hours of out-door labour are over, is the trysting-place for the "tillers of the ground;" and here, amidst noise and smoke, and by the murky gloom of the furnace, the sons of the soil discuss all public matters, whether national or local. There is always a Robin-Raw, a swaggering Bobadil, or a Sawney Munchausen in every neighbourhood, who is made to tumble for the amusement of the company, and there is scarcely ever any lack of persons qualified to pull the wires and exhibit the Punch of the party.

At the smiddy of Arnprior, a group such as we have been describing assembled occasionally. Tamas, o' Newburn, was the Munchausen of the district, and Davie o' Garden, the exhibitor. Tamas was somewhat difficult to put in motion; but after having got a sufficient impetus, on he went like a stone down the slope—not stopping till far beyond the level.

"Dear me, Tamas, but you are wonderfu' douce the nicht! Did ye rise aff your wrang side this morning?"

"Just let me alane the nicht, Davie; I'm no' mysel' ava—ony ither time."

"Tuts, man, come awa; we'll no' let yet sit down i' the britchen that way. You recollect, Tamas, when you gaed to court Lizzie Lucklip, your wife, what a braw lad you were?"

"I was that, Garden, though I say't mysel'; there wasna anither in the hale parish that could haud the can'le to me—sax feet three, an' a weel-proportioned swankie in every other respect—limbs! the better o' them never cam' oot o' Nature's turning loom. That morning that I gaed to gree maitters wi' Lizzie, I had just cam' hame frae Murray's-ha' lime-kilns, and aff I set, after redding mysel' up, nae doot, ower the croft by Pooburn, barefitted—the leas were shoe-deep in water, and the sun was glintin' sae laughing-like after the thunder-shower. I skelpit ower the rig, every sparge that gaed frae my fit was like a harn wab—ou ay, but thae days are awa'. Lizzie's deid and gane, and some that she brocht to me beside; my heart aye grows grit when I think on them."

"Nae wonder, Tamas; mony a happy day you had wi' her and them. Your auld neebor, Ladylands, slippet awa the ither day to his lang hame; ye mind sic horse as ye yoked to the swingletrees at Ladylands?"

PLOO'IN' EXTRAORDINARY.

"An' that I dae, Garden, man, when ye mind me o't; they were the horse, just as daft as young couts that never had got their tails dockit, weel fed, and as sleekit i' the skin as otters. When I used to gang into the trevis to gie them their corn, I whiles cam' oot again without the neck o' my jacket—just through stark daffing. Sic a stramash when they ran awa' wi' me and the ploo at the bourtrees yonder! I held on—you'll no' believe me, Dawvit, when I tell ye, that the common gauge o' the fur was my pouch lida. I lost grip, and at last sight o' the crap o' the stilts, the stanes comin' thundering back past my lugs like shoo'ers o' bullets; and doon I tum'led an' the fur aboon me; the last thing I saw was the points o'

the horse's lugs. Jock More was passing at the time, and helped me out, or buried alive was I, as sure as my name is Tamas Langleas, o' Newburn. Jock telt me afterwards that his verra een gaed blin' in his heid."

"But that's naething to the time when they took fricht and ran aff frae ye when ye were plooin' on the Drum Hill!"

"Ye may weel say it, Garden; that was a strussel; never mortal, I believe, ever saw or heard tell o' sic anither rin-awa. A bird flew oot o' the hedge beside me, and ere I could say 'woa, Jollie,' crack gaed the thaits, and the swingletrees flew owre the craft in splinters, the stilts were quivering amang my fingers like fiddlestrings—owre the hill the horse flew like lichtnin'. They gied siccan a tug when they brak aff, they brocht the ploo and me through the hill the nearest—we made up to them at the head-rig whaur the hedge keppit them."

SOOMING EPISODE.

"Thae wis the days; there wisna ither twa on the haill o' the carse, or the braes o' Kippen, could divert themselves sooming like us; Tamas, dae ye mind o' your dive to the bottom o' Killorn-linn yon simmer nicht?"

"Man, I had maist forgotten that. I had been cutting hay a' that day at Laraben, an' it's weel min't—muckle Rab o' Angustep was wi' me tae—I thocht I micht be nane the waur o' haeing mysel' washed, and doon I gaed to Killorn-linn, and, thinks I, if ye hae a bottom, as the folk say ye hinna, I'll see for mysel' this nicht. I plunges in, and doon and doon I sinks till at last I lichts at the bottom, and in atween the clefts o' a moss-stock ane o' my feet gets wedged. Doon I set the ither foot to gie me mair poo'er, and doon it gaes i' the mud! 'Waur and waur,' says I; 'Tamas, you were sance buried alive, and now I think you're to be drowned alive.'

[Time of total immersion supposed to be 20 minutes.]

"'Oh!' quo' I to mysel', 'I wish I had taen a blether-fu' o' breath doon wi' me; I wad hae defied your stocks and your clay.' I sat doon a wee to rest me, and tried

again to free my feet; no! Hech! you may be sure my hert was playing pittie-pattie when oot o' his den springs the king o' the otters—a great big fleckit brute, the size o' a twa-year'll stirk. The beast had mista'en my legs for twa salmon, but the stock was atween me and him, and saved my limbs. The force o' the beast against the stock turned me heels ower head, and set me fairly on my feet again; and before you could say Jock Morrison! I wis aboon the water. Rab o' Angustep had run awa' to gather the neebors to rake the linn for me.

CLASH-BRAE BOGLES.

“It's an uncanny place that Clash-brae for bogles. If ever I saw 'Auld Nick' himsel' in my life, it was there ae nicht. Deed, Garden, my verra een waters whan I think o' what I forgethered wi' on the road mysel' as I was comin' owre by the Clash-brae ae winter nicht. I had been awa' ayont Cardross, seeing the lasses, an' I'll no' say but it micht be weel on in the mornin' when I set oot for comin' hame. It was as dark a nicht as ever mortal man was oot in; no' a star wis tae be seen i' the lift. I would hae defied e'en Loaninfit himsel', wha pretended to see faurer afore his neb than his neebors, to hae kent his finger frae his thoom, if hauden up afore him. Weel, just as I wis passing auld Sandy Keir's, that's dead an' awa', an unearthly-looking thing cam' brachling through the hedge—gif I could believe my ain een it looked like a hurl-barrow on end, makin' its way without the trunn'el. My hair stood up like heckle-teeth, and I thocht the verra grun' wasna carrying me. I tried to gang fast, there wis the thing at my side; I keepit mysel' back—aye at my side; gang fast or gang slow, there wis the thing, maist rubbing claes wi' me. The sweat was breakin' owre my broo' like lammer beads; but I wis aye preserved. As I passed auld Robin Kay's at the tap o' the loan, lang Davie Cassel's cock crew, and the thing just gaed through the braid side o' Cassel's maut barn in a flaucht o' fire. The neist mornin' I heard that just aboot the same time auld Donald Stalker had gane tae his rest.”

A SOCRATES OF THE "KINGDOM."

IT was the fate of Watty M'Claws, of Whistlebare, in the Barony of Buchlyvie, to be connected in marriage with one of those viragos who turn out to be anything but answering the description of "helpmeets." Girzie Glunch, the maiden name of Mrs. M'Claws, was of an excessively irritable temperament—"the verra turning o' a strae," said Watty, "is aneuch to set her up in a bleeze like a tap o' tow." When in her barleyhoods, she was apt to enforce her commands with upland emphasis, and Watty came in for a due share of this practical elocution, and proved himself as quiet and submissive a disciple as ever fell under a "continual dropping" since the days of the Man of Uz.

One morning Watty came home to his breakfast at the usual time, expecting to find his "cog and soup" set out awaiting him, but such was not the case; the materials had not got fairly aboil, and Watty, doffing his Campsie grey broad-brim, sat him quietly down to exercise a little more of his cardinal virtue—patience. After waiting a considerable time, while the process of boiling and stirring was going on, Watty remarked that "he thoct the parritch might be dished now, and that they were surely weel aneuch boiled."

"Jist rest you there," said Girzie, "there's nae corn shaking at this time o' the year."

The man of Whistlebare saw in his Xantippe's gathered brow and pursing features a design, as he thought, to provoke a similar ebullition in his temper to that of the contents of the pot, and quietly gave way, meekly observing that he "feared the parritch couldna be ready in time for him this morning," and moved as if to go away.

"Sit still there; I'll no' dish them for your pleasure, or ony ither body's, though they should boil till they might be made thoom raips o'. Sit doon, ye hungry haverall that ye are; I'll gar ye channer there, ye pigthankfu', guid-for-naething sumph," and ere Watty wist, the spurtle

rebounded frae his haffet, leaving a goodly streak along the cheek backward of the material preparing for breakfast.

"Hoots, woman, I would rather tak the 'spurtle' grip mysel' than see you afflickit wi't; dear me, Girzie, I wadna hae believed, gif I hadna seen't, that the spurtle could hae lifted up sae muckle! We should let naething be lost, ye ken," continued Watty, scraping his temples, and tasting the quality, "I think they may do for the boiling part, but hae they no' a thocht ower muckle saut in them, Girz?"

MEAT AND MUSTARD.

A WORTHY named Davie Gow o' Claylands, was a regular attendant at "diets of examination," as they were called, a custom which has now entirely disappeared. The clergyman announces from the pulpit on Sabbath that the hearers in a certain locality will attend at some farmhouse for the purpose of being examined as to the amount of their religious knowledge, and also for giving them religious instruction.

The late Dr. Campbell, when in Kippen, was very regular in such appointments, as well as rigid in examination. One of these meetings took place at Clony, in David's neighbourhood, and at the conclusion, as usual, a somewhat stylish dinner was prepared for the minister and such of the neighbours who were present as were asked to dine with the family. The guidwife invited Davie "to tak' share o' what was gaun wi' the minister."

"Oh, you maun just excuse me the day, mem," replied Davie.

"Deed I'll no' excuse you this day, Dawvit. Ye needna mind, man! You're aye sae blate, and as mim as a May puddock! Come awa', noo; naeboddy but your neebors."

"Oh, no," still continued Davie; "really, I wish you would take my excuse. I canna come, for, ye see, Andrew Square is wi' us makin' some claes for the weans, and it widna be guid manners to leave Andrew to himsel'."

"Tuts, come oot o' that wi' you—gif a' your hums and ha's were hams and haggises, the parish o' Kippen needna fear o' dearth."

"Weel, mem, since ye will hae me to be neighbour-like, ye ken, mem, that ye have aye mustard on your table. Noo, I canna sup mustard."

THE DEIL O' BUCHLYVIE.

IN ancient times minstrels were a privileged class in the locality, and were generally accompanied by a gillie who carried the harp. On one occasion one of the fraternity, named Willie Dawson, accompanied by a youth as attendant, visited the house of Broich. As the night closed in, the household began to congregate round the blazing hearth, forming a circle, in the centre of which sat the minstrel and his harp-bearer.

"What youth is this you have brought with you this time, Willie?" asked the guidman of the house.

"The young varlet you are pleased to enquire after is the son of a cock-laird near Buchlyvie, who, having performed the part of one of the satyrs at a grand banquet at Stirling, has taken it into his head to make his son a minstrel, and for that purpose has placed him under my care; but a bee might as well attempt to teach a black-beetle the way to make honey as I to instruct this smeddumless smaik in the divine art of minstrelsy."

"What may thy name be, youngster?" queried the laird.

"Jist plain Watty M'Owat," said the youth, putting his hand to a tuft of hair that hung over his forehead.

"How old are you?"

"I'm aulder than ye wad think, or I wad like to tell; my mither used to say that my growth was a' downwards, like the toad's tail."

"I would think thee old, and, from thy readiness of tongue, to have a little of the toad's head as well as his tail about thee."

"We Buchlyvie folks hae aye a word or twa to gie

to a frien', though we should hae naething else to spare him."

"Now, Watty, would you not rather have been a tailor than the trade you have taken up?"

"I'm no' fond o' tailoring; it wadna agree wi' me to be cowerin' a' day, like a taid, on my hunkers."

"There are rich tailors in Stirling, my lad; tailors who have built bridges and gifted them away with the spirit of princes. There's Spittal for instance."

"Spittal! Odd, that's him that made my faither's deil's dress!"

"His satyr's dress, thou goose's head!"

"Weel, weel! ony head ye like, but they ca'd it his deil's dress about Buchlyvie."

"How did they know anything about it at Buchlyvie? And how, in the name of wonder, did your father come to enact such a part in court?"

"I'll tell you a' that, if you'll gie me time. My faither, wha is a wee daft whiles—I may just as weel tell you mysel' as let other folks do't—is kent owre a' the kintra-side as 'Davie Souple-shanks,' and he is weel named, as for jumpin' and dancin' he hasna a match on a' the braes o' Kippen. The Coort folks heard o' him, and sent for him to Stirling; and he took me wi' him as a kind o' gillie to tak' care o' Weasel (that's oor shelty), and dae ony odd things he wanted. And feth, I had plenty tae dae, for beside himsel' I had some ither deils, or satyrs, as ye ca' them, to wait upon." Watty related his experiences of waiting on the satyrs at Court, and having finished, the laird requested that he should now tell them how he happened to engage with the minstrel.

"Weel, since you maun ken," resumed Watty, "it was nae doing o' mine. My faither's deil cantrips had become the common clash o' the kintra-side, and I had made some rhymes about him, which he was weel aneuch pleased wi' at first, till some o' his companions put him in a pet about them, and then I had hardly a dog's life o't. So the next time Willie Dawson cam' roond, he ca'd on my faither, and the twa made a bargain, but what it was I

never heard; but, when Willie's gaun awa', my faither claps his harp on my back and turns me adrift, wi' nae-thing but a gowf in the lug to keep my pouch wi'."

"That seems hard usage, my young friend," said the laird; "but let us hear the rhymes, and then we'll be able to say more about it."

At the urgent desire of the laird and all present, Watty placed the harp between his limbs, and, after twanging away for some time, by way of symphony, and in waggish imitation of his master, sung the following lines to an air which, though not altogether devoid of music, had yet so strong an expression of the ludicrous about it, that it seemed to the ears of the company very much like an attempt to burlesque the lofty profession of which the unwilling youth had thus been constrained to become a member :—

THE DEIL O' BUCHLYVIE.

Nae doubt ye'll hae heard how daft Davie M'Ouat
Cam' hame like a deil, wi' an auld horn bouat ;
His feet they were cloven, horns stuck through his bonnet
That fley'd a' the neibours whenever they looked on it ;
The bairns flew like bees in a fright to their hive,
For ne'er sic a deil was e'er seen in Buchlyvie.

We had deils o' our ain in plenty to grue at,
Without makin' a new deil o' Davie M'Ouat,
We hae deils at the scornin', and deils at blaspheming ;
We hae deils at the cursin', and deils at nicknamin' ;
But for cloots and for horns, and jaws fit to rive ye,
Sic a deil never cam' to the toon o' Buchlyvie.

We hae deils that will lie wi' ony deil breathing ;
We're a' deils for drink when we get it for naething ;
We tak' a' we can, we gie unco' little,
For no' ane'll part wi' the reek o' his spittle ;
The shoul we ne'er use, wi' the rake we will rive you ;
So we'll fen without ony mae deils in Buchlyvie.

Though han'less and clotless, wi' nae tail to smite ye,
Like leeches when yaup, fu' sair can we bite ye.
In our meal-pock nae new deil will e'er get his nieve in,
For among us the auld deil could scarce get a leevin'.
Tae keep a' that's gude tae ourselves we contrive aye—
For that is the creed o' the toon o' Buchlyvie.

But deils wi' Court favour we never look blue at,
 Then let's drink to our new deil, daft Davie M'Ouat,
 And lang may he wag baith his tail and his bairdie
 Without skaith or scorning frae lord or frae lairdie !
 Let him get but the Queen at our fauts to connive aye—
 He'll be the best deil for the toon o' Buchlyvie.

Now, I've tell't ye ilk failin', I've tell't ye ilk faut ;
 Stick mair to your moilin', and less to your maut ;
 And aiblins ye'll find it far better and wiser
 Than traikin' and drinkin' wi' Davie, the guizer ;
 And never to wanthrift may ony deil drive ye,
 Is the wish o' wee Watty, the Bard o' Buchlyvie.

"Well, Watty, since that is your name," said the laird, "instead of a gowf i' the lug, had you been a son of mine, I would have turned you adrift with as many marks of the lash on your back as there are strings to the harp. Shame upon you for a graceless vagrant, that could thus lampoon the bones that begot you."

"Hoolie a wee, sir. Souple-shanks, as they ca' him, is nae faither o' mine; he's only my steppy, my mither's gudeman, like; and, except being a M'Owat, he's no' a drap o' blood related to me, and I think the usage was just hard aneuch to ane that had served him sae lang, and got naething but cuddie's wages, heavy wark and sair banes, for his trouble."

"That indeed alters the case a little; but surely you scandalise your townsmen when you say they cannot sit with a friend without drinking."

"Sit without drinking! They're no' exactly my words, but they're no' far frae my meaning. Did you ever see a leech sit on a timmer leg, sir?"

"No, youngster, I confess I never did."

"Weel, then, till ye see a ferlie o' that kind, never expect a Buchlyvie man will sit whaur there's nae drink gaun."

MINERAL SPRINGS.

SEVERAL chalybeate springs have been found in the parish, the chief of which is located in the bed of Boquhan Burn, about twenty yards above the railway bridge, and close to Kippen Station. No effort, however, has been made to secure any of these springs. The spring in the bed of Boquhan Burn, having undergone a comparative analysis, contains chloride of magnesium, sulphate of lime, chloride of calcium, and common salts, which ingredients are efficacious for many complaints. It is to be hoped that something may yet be done to concentrate these springs, and thereby add considerably to the inducements that attract tourists and visitors to the parish.

PARISH CEMETERY.

THE "Kingdom" has the distinction of being the only parish in Western Stirlingshire provided with a cemetery. Owing to no proper plan or chart being kept of the old graveyard adjoining the village, complaints became numerous regarding interments made therein, and in 1893 a public meeting of the parishioners was convened to consider what steps should be taken to remedy the grievance. Ultimately it was resolved to present a petition to the Sheriff of Stirling to have the old graveyard closed, subject to certain conditions, and subsequently a cemetery, available to the whole parish, was formed on the southern slope of the hill close to the Keir Hill of Drum, about a mile from the village. This new cemetery was opened for interments in 1895, at a cost of £1,400, the Parish Council levying an assessment of 1d. per pound on all owners and occupiers of lands and heritages to defray the cost.

ANCIENT ROADS.

TRACES of old Roman military roads have been discovered in several places in the locality. Some years ago, in Flanders Moss, on the opposite side of the Forth, a Roman way was discovered, twelve feet broad, and formed by trees laid across each other. The trunks of the trees were squared by the axe at each end, with marks of bolts, or pins, in the longitudinal sleepers. Its direction was from south-east to north-west, and quite probably this is a continuation or branch of the Roman highway which has been traced from England north to the Grampians. Leaving England at the Solway, it passes through Annandale and Clydesdale to the neighbourhood of Glasgow. From the vicinity of Glasgow it takes a direction eastward across the isthmus between the firths of Clyde and Forth. It enters upon Stirlingshire at Castlecary, and is found again upon a rising ground at Larbert. Passing south of Stirling, it takes a westerly direction, and a branch has been found to cross the Forth at the Ford of Drip, near Craigforth, turning northward by Dunblane. It is not improbable that the road found in Flanders Moss may have been a branch of this highway, taking its course direct from Stirling, and crossing the Forth at the Ford of Frew.

On the south side of the Forth, to the east of the curling pond of the Cardross and Kepp Club, a similar road was discovered some years ago, composed of logs of wood identical to those found in Flanders Moss.

In addition to these, there is a castellum at Cardross, with a ditch and inner and outer rampart pretty entire, which is undoubtedly Roman. In 1830, a copper kettle and a number of coins were found within this castellum; these are now in the museum of the Society of Antiquaries in Edinburgh, and have all been pronounced Roman. Roman historians frequently refer to the forests which the armies of that people had to cut down, and marshes which they had to drain, or make roads through,

in their marches towards Caledonia, and it would appear that they employed not only their own soldiers in this work, but compelled, with much rigour, such of the natives as fell into their hands to labour with them. These remains point undoubtedly to the fact that the growth of the moss in the valley is subsequent to the making of these roads or causeways.

In more modern times, the road or lane presently known as the Back Road formed a part of the principal military thoroughfare between Stirling and Dumbarton. Tracing it from the Brig of Broich, now called Arngomery Bridge, this road took a southerly direction, passing near to the farmhouse of Dub, where the mansion house of Shirgarton now stands, and from there we follow it in the old lane, passing the old Black Bull hostelry, with its courtyard and stables, and then past the old Parish Church and graveyard, until we reach the cross roads and the old Crown Inn, with its old-fashioned, crow-stepped gables, relic of a bygone age. Proceeding from the Crown Inn we follow it across the bridge at Burnside, and on until it enters the old lane now known as the Acres Loan, and from there in an easterly direction until it crosses Boquhan Glen, by what is now called "the auld brig of Boquhan," then past the hamlet of Burnton, until we reach the village of Gargunnoch. The present Stirling and Dumbarton Road was made and connected with the old road, at a point near Arngomery Bridge, in 1828.

There are also several old roads in the vicinity of the village, which have been constructed by the residents of the various baronies for the conveyance of peats from the moss in the valley, the longest of these being in the barony of Shirgarton. Leading from Shirgarton Moss, adjoining the farm of Strewiebank, it takes a southerly direction up the steep brae known as the "Balloch," beneath Shirgarton House, where it joins the old military Stirling and Dumbarton road, and, striking off at Cairn Cottage, it leads up past the farm steading of Shirgarton, and close to the site of the ancient mansion house of

that name, and from there up through the hamlet of Cauldhame to the Redgatehill and Shirgarton Common, and on to the holdings of Muirend, Dunimerg, etc., now in the estate of Wright Park.

The peat road for the barony of Dasher leads from the Dasher Moss, on Middlekerse farm, passes close to the side of that farm, and joins what is now locally known as the "Cottage Loan," till it reaches the foot of the Keir Knowe, where a divergence takes place, the one portion continuing round the base of the knowe, past the kiln park, till it joins the station road, leading to the village of Kippen; the other, branching off at the foot of Cuthbertson Glen, crosses the brae park (a part of this section is now effaced by the plough), and takes an easterly direction through the top of Crawfordstone Glen, till it merges into the road leading past the farm of Wester Braehead to the hamlet of Music Hall.

The Broich and Arnmanuel peat road leads from the Broich Moss, adjoining the farm of Fairfield, past the south side of Arngomery mansion house, through the Glen of Broich, and on to the barony of Arnmanuel.

There is also another old road, very seldom used now. Tracing it from a point where it branches off the old Stirling and Dumbarton road, a short distance east from the hamlet of Music Hall, it crosses through the Dasher Common, the Black Brae, the baronies of Shirgarton and Arnmanuel, joining the Kippen and Campsie road a short distance above the sandstone quarry in Kippen Muir; while numerous other old roads and rights-of-way are fast becoming obsolete in the parish.



CAULDHAME, KIPPEN.

STAGE-COACHES.

THE advent of railways, affording a cheap and speedy mode of travelling, has supplanted the old-fashioned stage-coach. Up till the year 1850 a coach ran between the Crown Hotel, at Kippen Cross, and Glasgow three days a week, the fare being four shillings and sixpence for the single journey. It is needless to add that only the well-to-do class could participate in this, at that time, luxurious mode of travelling; indeed, we have been told by some old residents of the village that it was quite a common occurrence in those days for the women folk of the district to set out early in the morning across the hill, by way of Fintry, Crow Road, and Campsie, and from thence to Glasgow, do their shopping, and return by same route that evening with their purchases, thus covering a distance of 48 miles.

The following is also related:—A native of the village, William Donaldson by name, long since deceased, migrated to Glasgow, where he obtained employment. Previous to his departure from the village he had centred his affections on one of the many "weel-faured" lasses that abound in the locality, and, as the love of olden times laughed at milestones as well as locksmiths, he set out regularly, and one evening every week for two years stepped across the hills by the route already referred to, and, having spent an hour with his sweetheart, was back in Glasgow, as he told the writer, when the six o'clock bell was ringing, ready to begin his daily toil. He afterwards married this lass, and settled down on a farm in the vicinity of the village. Compared with the facilities afforded by locomotives, bicycles, and motor cars, comment is unnecessary on the love-making episodes of the twentieth century.

A four-in-hand coach also passed through the village from Balfroon to Stirling every Friday.

ECCLESIASTICAL RECORDS.

IN the first edition of the "Gazetteer of Scotland" we find that the Church of Kippen belonged anciently to the Monks of Cambuskenneth; but according to another, and more probable, account it was, in 1238, erected by an ecclesiastical convention, acting under the authority of the Pope, into a perpetual canonry in the Church of Dunblane, which dates from the seventh century, and was founded at St. Blane, in Bute; whereas Cambuskenneth, or, as it is called in the old writs, Kambuskyne, dates back only to the twelfth century. It was founded by David I. for monks of the order of St. Augustine, and was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The lands connected with Cambuskenneth were never extensive, but were considered valuable. Hence the rhyme—

"A loop o' the Forth
Is worth an Earldom in the North."

According to a Pictish chronicler the Church of Dunblane was, during the reign of Kenneth Macalpine, destroyed by fire by the Britons of Strathclyde. For many years after, the church was vacant, most of the possessions being seized by seculars and appropriated to their own use. Mr. Wilson, in his "History," says that next to nothing was known of the Church of Dunblane till the time of David I., who founded the bishopric, and in his preface to the "Catalogue of Scottish Bishops," Bishop Keith refers to a judgment of the Pope's delegate in a question regarding the bishopric of Dunblane in the year 1238. In that year Bishop Clement of Dunblane, being moved by the utter decay of the bishopric, repaired in person to Rome to represent to the Pope that the Church of Dunblane, having been vacant for more than a hundred years, almost all its possessions had been seized by secular persons, and that, although in process of time several bishops had been appointed, yet by their weakness and indifference the possessions thus appropriated had not only not been recovered, but even what remained to them

had been almost entirely alienated, in consequence of which no one could be induced to take upon himself the burden of the episcopate, and the church had thus remained without a chief pastor for nearly ten years. The then bishop, when appointed, had found the see so desolate that "it cannot be espied where he might lean his head in the Cathedral Church," that there was no collegiate establishment, and that in this unroofed church the divine offices were celebrated by a rural chaplain; while the Bishop's revenues were so slender that they scarce yielded him maintenance for half a year. On the authority of Skene, in his "Celtic Scotland," this document was mixed up with a question between the same Bishop and the Earl of Menteith.

PARISH CHURCH AT KIPPEN.

THIS question may have referred, along with other alienations, to the Church of Kippen, for we find in the chartulary of Cambuskenneth Abbey several charters, the translation of which is given by Mr. Wilson as follows:—

"James, by the Grace of God, King of the Scots, to all men throughout his land, both clergy and laymen, health. Know that whereas we, moved by our filial affection, having regard to the fact that the Parish Church of Kippen, in the diocese of Dunblane, and situated within the County of Menteith, together with the right of patronage to the same, was bestowed on the most blessed and glorious Virgin Mary and on our Monastery of Cambuskenneth—likewise on the Canons who therein serve God, and who shall in future serve Him, by Walter, sometime Earl of Menteith, and Alexander, his son, as a free perpetual gift for the health of their own souls, and of the soul of Matilda, whilom wife of the said Alexander, and for ceremonious obsequies performed in our said monastery, whereas we also bear in mind how the aforesaid Church and its patronage have existed from long past and beyond the memory of man outside the jurisdiction of our said monastery, we also, to the honour of God Almighty and of the aforesaid most glorious Virgin, His Mother, Mary, and for the health of the souls of our late most noble father and mother, James III., and Margaret, his wife, of blessed memory (to whom God be reconciled), whose bodies rest in the said monastery—also for the offering of

prayer on behalf of our Father and Mother aforesaid and on behalf of us and our successors through all time coming, do approve, ratify, confirm, and by this our present charter do, on the part of ourselves and our successors, approve and for ever confirm that donation made by the said whilom Walter and Alexander in favour of our Monastery of Cambuskenneth and of the Canons of the same, in the matter of the said Church of Kippen and its patronage. And moreover we have now given and granted every lawful title which we have had or have to the aforesaid Church and the patronage of the same in respect both of its rectory and vicarage, together with all and sundry tithes, produce, offerings, emoluments, revenues, and all just perquisites whatever, having regard to the same as a free and perpetual gift. In witness of which we direct our great seal to be placed on our present charter."

Then follow a number of witnesses. The Charter concludes thus:—

"Done at Striveling on the sixth day of the month of April in the year of our Lord one thousand four hundred and ninety six in the eight year of our reign."

CHARTER CONFIRMED BY JAMES IV.

This Charter was confirmed by James IV. in his Parliament in the following deed, part of which is also from the Chartulary of Cambuskenneth:—

"In the name of God, Amen—Be it clearly known unto all by this present public deed, that in the year of our Lord's incarnation, one thousand four hundred and ninety-six, in the twenty-third day of the month of June, in the fourth year of the pontificate of our most holy Father and Lord in Christ, Alexander VI., by the Divine Providence, Pope, in the Parliament of our supreme Lord the King, held and begun at Edinburgh in the Parliament House of the same, on the day above mentioned—our aforesaid Lord the King appeared personally in presence of the three estates of the realm and of one the notary public—and the undermentioned witnesses—and these our supreme Lord the King did of his own special grace and at his own proper motion give, grant, confirm, and approve the gift, grant, etc., which he had formerly made to the venerable father in Christ, Henry, Abbot of Cambuskenneth, and to his monastery, in the case of the Church of Kippen in its Charter sealed with his own great seal, to the effect that the said Church of Kippen shall in all time to come remain with the same abbot and monastery and their successors for ever—in consideration

of daily rites and prayers to be ever performed and offered on behalf of the souls of his late father and mother, of his own soul and the souls of his predecessors, and successors whomsoever."

Then follow the names of persons present.

ARRANGEMENTS COME TO.

Immediately after this a long and bitter dispute arose betwixt the Bishop of Dunblane and the Abbot of Cambuskenneth regarding the Church of Kippen, the Abbot claiming the Church by virtue of a gift from King James IV., whilst the Bishop maintained that it was a prebend or canonry of Dunblane, and could not therefore be bestowed by the King as a gift. An amicable arrangement, however, was come to by consent of the King, and engrossed in a charter, as follows:—

"To each and all the sons of holy mother Church, to whose notice the present letters may come, James, by the Grace of God and of the Apostolic See, Bishop of the Cathedral Church of Dunblane, with consent and assent of the chapter of the same, in general chapter as such assembled—health together with the Divine Blessing—Know that we have accepted and understood according to the following tenor, the specification and agreement between us on our side and the venerable father in Christ, Andrew, by Divine permission Abbot of the monastery of Cambuskenneth and his convent on the other—this engagement and agreement now made and concluded at the city of Dunblane in the thirteenth day of the month of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand five hundred and ten, between the reverend Father and Lord in Christ, James, by the grace of God and of the Apostolic See, Bishop of the Cathedral, Dunblane, with consent and assent of the said Church regarding the disputes and controversies which have arisen, or which may in future arise between the same parties in connection with the right to the Parish Church of Kippen, that the said Church of Kippen with all and sundry the produce, returns, revenues, privileges, and emoluments, which belong or may belong to the said vicarage, together with the sum of twenty pounds of the usual money of Scotland, to be levied, raised, and paid from the produce, returns, and revenue of the said Church of Kippen, through all future time, in equal portions, at the two usual and customary terms of Pentecost, viz., and St. Martin's in winter—be united and incorporated with the usual mansion of that prebend, on condition, however, that of the said mansion and glebe, half an acre of land together with a small house for the

reception of the tithes of the said rectory, be held by the monastery of Cambuskenneth through all time to come. Moreover, by the tenor of these presents the canonry and prebend of Kippen are united, erected, created, and incorporated in one canonry and prebend of Dunblane—to be called in future the canonry and prebend of Kippen—which canonry and prebend shall through all time to come be perfectly in the gift and possession and at the full disposition of the said reverend Father and his successors, and shall belong to them in ordinary right, and the aforesaid venerable Father and the convent of the said monastery of Cambuskenneth and their successors shall possess all and sundry the produce of the rectory of the said church on condition of paying the said sum of twenty pounds to the said canon and prebendary free from any further annoyance. Moreover, the prebendary or canon of Kippen, who shall hold the prebend or canonry, shall be free from the payment of any ordinary or extraordinary dues as lately expressed in connection with the Church of Kippen, and from the payment of a certain pension of long standing, commonly termed the *Stal-Silver*, paid yearly in times past to the Staltarius in the same Cathedral Church of Dunblane, and amounting to four pounds, which the prebendary shall be bound to pay—and the contracting parties aforesaid have mutually bound themselves in the strictest form to faithfully fulfil.”

In testimony of his assent and consent to this agreement, the private seal of James IV. was appended to it. There was appended to the same document, besides, the common seal of the Chapter of Dunblane, as also the round seal of the bishop of the same, to remain for ever with the Monastery of Cambuskenneth. Then follow the bishop's signature and the signature of the dean, Walter Drummond, and the prebendary, James Wilson.

ORIGIN OF CONTROVERSY.

THE controversy betwixt the Abbot of Cambuskenneth and the Bishop of Dunblane regarding the Church of Kippen may have arisen in this way: Kippen originally belonged to Dunblane, but, as already indicated, was doubtless one of the alienations to which reference is made in the complaint of the Bishop of Dunblane to the Pope in 1238. Earl Walter of Menteith, or some of his predecessors, having seized the church, with right to the living, rather than return them to Dunblane, preferred

handing them over to Cambuskenneth. The condition which is made in the transference, viz., a right of sepulture at Cambuskenneth, seems strange when we remember that his ancestors had founded in the Lake of Menteith the Priory of Inchmahome, close to their house of Talla. The same chartulary of Cambuskenneth bears what is called the last foundation of Abbot and Convent at Kippen, which reads thus:—

“In the year of our Lord 1510, on the 21st day of the month of July, in the presence of me, notary public—and of the under-mentioned witnesses—that circumspect man, Master Patrick Coventre, being present in person, did endow and invest the venerable father in Christ, Andrew, Abbot of the Monastery of Cambuskenneth, and that discreet man, Sir John Ranaldson, canon of the said monastery, with real, actual, and bodily possession of the rectory of the Parish Church of Kippen, together with all and sundry rights, returns, produce, crops, emoluments, and appurtenances belonging to the said rectory, by producing and delivering over the book, cup, and other furniture of the high altar of the said Church of Kippen into the hands of the said venerable father and of Sir John Ranaldson, according to the will of our most holy lord the Pope, and of the charter granted by our supreme lord the King to the said abbot and convent regarding the said rectory, and with reference to these matters, etc., the aforementioned worshipful father, and other aforesaid, covenanted for a deed or deeds to be drawn up for their behoof by me the notary public hereinafter mentioned. Done in front of the high altar in the choir of the said Church of Kippen, in presence of these honourable and prudent men, viz., Maurice Buchquhanane, son of the noble Walter Buchquhanane of that ilk; John Knok of Ardmanwell, Alexander Forrester of Kilmore, Arthur Steward of Oulbeg, Patrick Makgillois, John Forestare, and James Harpar, together with many of the parishioners. The foregoing by me, Andrew Wilson, notary. Witness my hand.”

JAMES IV. VISITS KIPPEN KIRK.

The only other item regarding the Church of Kippen in pre-Reformation times which has been gleaned took place in 1489. The Earl of Lennox, keeper of the Castle of Dumbarton, having raised an insurrection against the government of James IV., took the field with an army of two thousand men, and proceeded northward. The King, with the Lords of Clydesdale, met at Stirling, and finding

that Lennox, with his army, was encamped in the neighbouring parish of Aberfoyle, at a place called Gartalunane, on the south bank of the Forth, he hastily collected a few followers, and set out to meet the insurgents. During the night Earl Lennox was surprised, and he and his men completely routed. Next day, on his return to Stirling, the King visited the Kirk of Kippen, and, according to the accounts of the Lord High Treasurer, gave "ane angell" as an offering in thanksgiving for his success. An angel was an English gold coin reckoned in value about twenty-four shillings. This same King, who is associated so much with the parish, was he who fell at the Battle of Flodden, where

"The flowers o' the forest were a' wede away."

Tradition assigns the site of the church and graveyard in pre-Reformation times to a knoll within the field behind the cottage known as Kirkhill Cottage, immediately west from the Keir Hill of Dasher.

CHAPEL OF DUNDAFF.

MR. A. F. HUTCHISON, M.A., in a paper read at a meeting of the Stirling Natural History and Archæological Society some years ago, furnished additional interesting records of the parish, from which we learn that the existence of a pre-Reformation Chapel at Kirk o' Muir is found in the Register of the Great Seal, where, under date 8th February, 1458-9, at Edinburgh, a deed is recorded in which King James II. granted the two merk lands of Ernbeg to a chaplain and his successors, to celebrate divine worship in the Chapel of St. Mary in Garwald, in the Moor of Dundaff. As some questions may depend on it, it will be as well to give the deed in the original Latin :—

"Rex pro salute anime sue, &c., in purem elemosinam—concessit uni capellano et successoribus ejus divina celebraturis in capella Beate Marie in Garwalde in mora de Dundaff 2 Marcetus terrarum de Ernbeg, in quibus situatur Crux de Kippene, in dominio de Menteith vie Perth—Faciend orationum Suffragia devotarum."



MAIN STREET, BUCHLYVIE, LOOKING EAST.

Does this charter constitute a deed or foundation, or is it only the record of a grant in aid of a pre-existing chapel? Looking at the form of words—which resembles (in its *uni capellano* and its use of the future participle *celebraturis*) that usually employed in a deed of foundation, and considering the fact that in none of the published Montrose Charters is there any reference to the foundation, or even to the existence, of the Chapel of Dundaff, one might conclude that this was the origin of the chapel. On the other hand, the two merk lands of Ernbeg seemed a rather small endowment for the sole support of a chaplain; and the probability appeared to be—more especially as there were kirk lands in existence at the time of the Reformation—that the King was merely co-operating with his friend, the Lord of Dundaff, in the establishment of the chapel.

The question, however, is solved, and the matter put beyond doubt by information supplied by Mr. W. B. Cook, Stirling. Mr. Cook has had an opportunity of seeing an unprinted inventory of Montrose Writs, among which occurs a “Mortification by Patrick Graham of Dundaff of some lands in Dundaff for a chaplaincy there” (an old torn parchment which seems to be the ecclesiastical authority for above foundation), dated in the year of God 1445. This conclusively settles the question of the founder and the date of the foundation as thirteen years previous to that of the royal grant, and also accounts for the kirk lands. If we inquire into the motives which led the King to make this grant to the little chapel in the moorlands of Dundaff, we are left to more or less probable conjecture. The phrases, “pro salute anime sue,” and “in purem elemosinum,” do not help. They are purely formal; and so it would not be safe to infer that His Majesty felt his soul in any special danger at that time, even although it was the fact that he had recently been guilty of the murder of Douglas in Stirling Castle. All the witnesses to the deed are royal officials, with the exception of two, one of these two being Patrick Lord le Graham, the actual founder of the chapel. Patrick

Graham was a special friend and favourite of James II., who had just previously to this date done good service to the King and State in negotiating a two years' truce with England. In recognition of his services the King had erected certain lands in Stirlingshire belonging to Graham into the barony of Mugdock in his favour, by charter dated 24th October, 1458, and had raised him to the dignity of Lord le Graham. Very shortly afterwards he received a royal warrant, dated 27th March, 1459, empowering him to build cruives on the water of Allan, and apply the profits to his own use. The King therefore may be supposed to have contributed his *quotum* to the endowment of Dundaff Chapel out of friendship for its founder, and to add another mark of appreciation of his distinguished services.

KIPPEN KIRK LANDS GIVEN TO EARL OF MAR.

IN the general scramble for Church lands at the time of the Reformation, large portions were appropriated, not merely by the nobles, but also by the Crown. We find, however, James VI., by an Act in 1606, erecting abbacies and priories in several places into temporal lordships, on behalf of distinguished men or favourites, who thus come to have a right to their lands similar to what the religious orders had prior to the Reformation. In this Act the Abbacies of Dryburgh and Cambuskenneth and the Priory of Inchmahome "were erected ane temporale lordschip callat ye Lordschip of Cardrois" in favour of the Earl of Mar. The Act runs thus:—

"Johne, Earl of Mar, Lord Erskyne, and his predecessouris in their great cair and faithfulness in all things that might tend to the advancement of his Majaisties honourable affairis, quhairof he and his father gaif evident and manifest pruiif and experience in their worthie, memorable, and acceptable pains and travellis tane be them in the education of his Majaisties Maist Royal Persone frae his birth for education to the Prince, also his journeys and expeditions, which the said Earl has taen in embassies from his Highness, which he has discharged well, and his Highness being no wise in mind to forget the same nor leave the

said services unrewarded. And finding no means better to reward for the same in some part than by disposition of such rents, profits, and emoluments of the lands, kirks, and others (particularly underwritten) as did pertain of before to the monasteries of Inchmahome and Cambuskenneth and Dryburgh. The same monasteries and superstitions thair of being now abolisheit, and the kirklands of the same now anexit to his hienis crowne, and therewith considering that the said monasteries have been in all time heretofore commonly disposed by his Majestie's predecessouris to some that were come of the hous of Erskyne, all and hail the landis and baronie of Cardross, viz., the landis of Arnprior, the landis of East Garden, the landis of Kepe, the landis of East Poldare, the landis of Wester Poldare, the Myln of Arnprior, . . . the Kirk landis of Kippen, the Kirk of Kippen—parsonage and vicarage with all prebendaries and chaplanreis in all time coming."

NEW KIRK SITE.

IN the register of the Diocesan Synod of Dunblane, under date of 11th April, 1665, the following is found engrossed in the minutes:—

"This day my Lord Cardross presented before the Bishop and Synod ane act of the Lords Commissioners for the plantation of kirks, the dait whereof is the 8th of February, 1665, for removing of the Kirk of Kippen, out of the place it is now for the present, into a place more commodious for the benefit of the whole inhabitants, whereupon it was agreed be the Bishope and Synod that a certain number . . . shall with the Bishope goe to Kippen for perambulating the bounds of the paroch thereof, and thereafter to decerne in the said matter, as the Bishope and brethren shall find to be most commodious for the whole paroch."

There is no doubt that the church spoken of here is that building already referred to as near the Keir Hill of Dasher, immediately behind Kirkhill Cottage, and that the Bishop is the able and devoted Robert Leighton.

The register records the minute of visitation of the "Paroch Kirk of Kippen," the purport of which is as follows:—"That the Kirk is ruinous, both walls and roof, and called for present reparacione, that the Bishope and

his brethren perambulated the bounds of the paroch, and suggested a new Kirk further to the west." Objections were, however, made by the heritors, and the matter was referred for consideration and judgment to the Lords Commissioners.

THREE CHAPELS IN KIPPEN.

THERE was a chapel or meeting-house on the eastern boundary of the parish, near to the old mansion-house of Glentirran, which stood about 200 yards south-west of the old brig of Boquhan, near to the Keir Hill. This chapel was erected in 1687. After the indulgence granted by James VII., George Barclay was minister. In 1679, Mr. Barclay was arrested and put into the guard-house of Edinburgh, but escaped by leaping from a window. He fled to the north of England, was named in the list of fugitives in 1684, fled afterwards to Holland, but returned with the Earl of Argyle in 1685, and preached at conventicles in Galloway and Ayrshire. He was settled in the meeting-house of Glentirran in 1688, and translated to Uphall in 1690.

In 1748, a secession took place from the National Church at Stirling, led by Ebenezer Erskine, which spread over Scotland. The seceders designated themselves the Associate Synod, then the Relief Church, and latterly the United Presbyterian, a body now merged, together with members of the Free Church, under the denomination of the United Free Church.

Ten years after the Original Seceders left the National Church, branches hived off, calling themselves Burghers and Anti-Burghers, and a connection was formed at Buchlyvie in 1850.

SECOND PARISH CHURCH.

CHURCH TOWER CLOCK.

IN the graveyard close to the village, with entrance from the Cross, stand the ruins of the Old Church, with fine belfry. Built in 1691, and enlarged and repaired in 1777, up to which time it was a very plain building, in that year the heritors agreed to make the walls as smooth as possible, without injuring them, and afterwards to plaster them with two coats, to strike out one or more windows, and also put sounding holes in the roof. The practice of burying the dead within the Church had prevailed up to this time, and the heritors agreed to discontinue the practice. It has been asserted that there are more human remains within the four walls of the Old Church than in any other part of the burying-ground.

There was a clock at one time in the Old Church tower, and in 1751, the heritors finding, to quote from the kirk session minutes, "the clock standing on Kippen Kirk to be not only useless there, but dangerous, appoint David Gourlay to see if he can get it disposed of." David Gourlay was clerk, and is named as of Kepdarroch. No purchasers coming forward, in a subsequent minute we find it was "resolved that the materials of the old clock of the Parish Kirk be disposed of by public roup in the street of Kippen, for ready money, or on short credit, as may be judged proper." It is further recorded that the same was exposed in different parcels, and the price, payable at St. Mavie's Day, amounted to two pounds eight shillings and one farthing sterling.

OLD CHURCH BELL.

The bell which at present hangs in the old, ivy-clad belfry was presented by Walter Leckie of Dashers, in 1726, and bears the following inscription:—

"Donata. Fvit Hae Coampana ; A.D.A. Walters Leckie re Dashers, Savata, ad. 1726, Kippen recondita, 1618, and Aparochia, ie Michaelae Potter, Pastore."

THE DONOR.

It has been said that Mr. Leckie caused some of his silver plate to be put into the bell, and tradition has it that Mr. Leckie was a generous man, but lived rather a gay life. A worthy old gentleman belonging to the parish met him on one occasion in Edinburgh, where he had been residing for some time, and accosted him, saying, "Dasher! Dasher! a lang east the gate maks a short wast the gate," meaning that in proportion to the time which he spent in Edinburgh would his property at home be neglected. It was really so, for he died a poor man.

COMMUNION CUPS.

In 1790 Robert Graham of Gartmore presented two very handsome and massive solid silver communion cups to the parish. They are still used on communion occasions, and bear the following inscription:—

"Presented to the Parish of Kippen by Robert Graham of Gartmore in testimony of his veneration for the religion of his country, of his respect for the present pastor, and of his regard for the inhabitants of the parish.—Nov. 1st., 1790."

The pastor, we may add, was the Rev. John Campbell. From the hall marks we learn that the cups were made in Edinburgh by Patrick Robertson, who was deacon of the Corporation in the year 1754 and again in 1764.

THIRD PARISH CHURCH.

ITS CLOCK AND BELL.

THE present handsome church was built in 1827, the red sandstone being obtained from the moor above the village. There is seating accommodation for upwards of 800 in the church, and its imposing tower, over 100 feet in height, is a prominent feature in the landscape for miles around. The bell in the tower weighs about 10 cwts., and was presented by William Forrester of Arngibbon in 1873, and bears this inscription:—

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."

The cross head over the bell is made of oak taken from the tower of the old College of Glasgow, which was razed to the ground in 1873, and this fact is recorded on a brass plate.

In 1881, through the unsparing exertions of the Rev. William Wilson, then minister of the parish, a bazaar was held for the purpose of raising funds to place a clock in the tower, the clock being erected the same year, Mr. Wilson dying suddenly before the work was completed. The clock was erected by Messrs. R. & J. Dougall, watch and clock makers, Kippen, and has four dials, measuring over five feet each in diameter, while it strikes the hours on the large bell in the tower underneath, conferring a boon on the villagers for a considerable distance around.

The manse was originally erected in 1706, and has since been repeatedly enlarged and improved.

UNITED FREE CHURCH.

AFTER the Disruption in 1843, a Free Church was built at Burnside, on a site granted by Thomas Graham of Kirkhill at a nominal rent for sixty years, afterwards extended to ninety-nine. It is now converted into a tenement of dwelling-houses bearing the name of Douglas Place, the property having been sold to Mr. J. Dougall, watchmaker, Kippen, when the congregation removed to the handsome new edifice in Main Street in 1878.

The ceremony of laying the memorial stone of the new Free Church was performed by Mr. James Campbell, of Tullichewan, on Saturday, 10th November, 1878. Among those present were—Gilbert Beith, Esq., Ballochneck; W. A. M'Lachlan, Esq., Auchentroig; T. L. Galbraith, Esq., Stirling; J. F. Stewart, Esq., Benview, Kippen; W. Ure, Esq., Crawfordstone; R. Downie, Esq., Knock o' Ronald. The style of architecture is of the thirteenth century English Gothic, surmounted with a beautiful tower and slated spire rising a height of 90 feet.

The cost of the building was about £2500, and the Rev. Patrick Thomas Muirhead, minister of the congregation, paid the greater part of this sum himself. Mr. Muirhead's memory is suitably perpetuated by a marble tablet on the walls within the church, and his remains are buried in the church ground immediately behind the church. Mrs. Wm. Anderson, widow of the first minister of the Free Church, and who seceded from the Parish Church of Kippen in 1843, presented a bell for the church tower.

CLERGY ROLL OF KIPPEN.

PARISH CHURCH.

THE following are the names of the readers, rectors, and clergymen of this parish as far back as we can glean:—

In 1473, Robert Colquhoun, a cadet of the family of Luss, was rector of Luss and Kippen.

In 1574 (fourteen years after the Reformation), the parish was supplied by William Sterwilling, reader.

1576 to 1578—David Dikkesoun, reader.

1578 to 1580—William Sterwilling, A.M.

Andrew Murdo, A.M., from 1582 to 1587. Translated to Greenock.

Andrew Forrester, translated from Falkirk in 1595, presented to this parish by James VI. Died in 1603.

William Nairne, A.M., presented by James VI. in 1604. Translated to Dysart in 1617.

Andrew Allan, A.M., translated from Blackford in 1618. Died in 1619.

Henry Levingstone, A.M., 1619. Died in 1673.

Edward Blair, A.M., licensed by George, Bishop of Edinburgh, in 1665. Admitted to this parish in 1666. Died in 1673.

Robert Young, A.M., presented by Henry Lord Cardross in 1673. In 1689 he was deprived by the Privy Council for not reading the proclamation of the Estates, and for not praying for their Majesties William and Mary.



BELFRY, OLD PARISH CHURCH, KIPPEN.

Archibald Riddell, A.M., third son of Sir Walter Riddell of that ilk, was ordained to this parish about 1670. He officiated as a Presbyterian minister at a communion in the fields at Eckford, near Haddington, in 1679, for which he was imprisoned, but liberated. In the end of 1679 he was again apprehended, and committed prisoner to the Tolbooth of Jedburgh in September, 1680; examined before a committee of the Privy Council shortly afterwards, and sent to the Bass, in the Firth of Forth, in June, 1681, for breaking his confinement at Kippen, keeping conventicles, and marrying and baptizing in a disorderly manner. He was afterwards, in 1685, transported to America, where he had calls from congregations at New Bridge, Long Island, and Woodbridge, New Jersey. The latter he accepted, and he remained there till June, 1689, when he returned to England, but on the voyage was captured by a French man-of-war, taken to Nantz, Rochefort, and Toulon, where he was confined nineteen months in an old vessel at sea. Being landed, he was again sent to Rochefort, and thence to Dinan, where he continued about a year in the vault of an old castle, with hundreds of other prisoners; and at length, with one of his sons, was exchanged for two popish priests sent by the Privy Council. He was at length presented to the Parish of Wemyss in 1691.

John M'Claren, ordained to this parish in 1692. Translated to Carstairs in 1699.

Michael Potter, A.M., the first minister since the Revolution, was ordained to this parish in 1700, and appointed Professor of Divinity in the University of Glasgow in 1740.

Andrew Turnbull, ordained to this parish in 1741. Died in 1773.

Peter Innes, presented by David Erskine, Esq., Writer to the Signet, in 1773. Died in 1775.

James Thomson, presented by David Erskine, W.S., in July, 1775, but died 12th January, 1776, a few days before the time appointed for his ordination.

David Davidson, presented to this parish by David

Erskine, Esq., in 1776. Translated to Dundee in 1782. He became Moderator of the General Assembly.

John Campbell, presented, at the desire of the parishioners, by David Erskine, Esq., in 1783; received a call to Dundee in 1804, which was not accepted. Translated to the Tolbooth Church, Edinburgh, in 1806. He also was Moderator of the General Assembly.

Patrick M'Farlane, presented by David Erskine, Esq., of Cardross, in 1800. Translated to Polmont in 1800; afterwards to St. John's, Glasgow; then to St. Enoch's, Glasgow; and later to Greenock. He was also Moderator of the General Assembly.

William Anderson, presented by David Erskine of Cardross in 1810. Mr. Anderson joined the Free Church in 1843, and died on the 27th March, 1845, minister of the Free Church, Kippen.

Alexander Matheson, presented in 1844. Died in 1865.

William Wilson, presented in 1866. Died in 1881.

John Moodie, elected in 1882. Died in 1889.

John Gavin Dickson, M.A., elected in 1890.

FREE CHURCH.

William Anderson, joined at the Disruption in 1843. Died in 1845.

Patrick T. Muirhead, elected in 1846. Died in 1888.

Henry W. Hunter, M.A., elected in 1888.

A SECEDER.

The following anecdote is told regarding a worthy old Seceder, who used to ride from Gargunnoch to Buchlyvie to attend the Burgher Kirk there. One day, as he rode past the Parish Kirk of Kippen, the elder at the plate accosted him—"I'm sure, John, it's no' like the thing to see you ridin' in sic a doonpour o' rain sae far by to thae Seceders. Ye ken, the mercifu' man is mercifu' to his beast; could ye no' step in by?" "Weel," said John, "I wadna care sae muckle about stablin' my beast inside, but it's anither thing mysel' gaun' in."

CURFEW BELL.

Until 1850 the curfew bell was rung from the old belfry every morning at six, and in the evening at eight o'clock. The morning bell was, however, only discontinued at this time, the practice of ringing in the evening being continued until 1882.

FOOTBALL PLAYING ON SUNDAYS.

Several anecdotes are told respecting the Rev. Mr. Potter, minister of the parish in the earlier years of the eighteenth century, among which are the following:—It had been the practice with some of the parishioners for years to play football on Sunday afternoons. They usually met in a field at the foot of the brae leading to the village, betwixt the present farmhouse of Crawfordstone and the base of the hill. Mr. Potter disapproved of this, and he therefore one Sunday afternoon embraced the opportunity of going down when the people were engaged in the sport, and begged to be permitted to take part in the game. The players were somewhat astonished, but made no reply, neither complied nor refused. Mr. Potter said it was proper that all their employments should begin with prayer, and he thereupon pulled off his hat and began to pray. By the time he had concluded, the most of the players had skulked away, and the practice was in future discontinued.

THE MINISTER AND HIS PIGS.

Mr. Potter, however, was the cause of a grievance which was bitterly felt by the villagers, he allowing his pigs to roam at will and feed in the graveyard. After many protests by the parishioners, to which he paid no heed, they resolved, partly in joke, partly in earnest, to play the following prank:—They seized one of the animals, which, by the way, was a black one, smeared it over with tar, tied it to the bell rope by the tail, and then set fire to it. The minister and the whole of the villagers were alarmed by hearing the bell ring in a

furious manner, and the hue and cry was immediately raised that the devil himself was the bellman. It is needless to add that the pigs in future were penned up.

MODERN RELIGIOUS EPISODE.

THE Rev. William Wilson records a curious religious incident which occurred at Kippen on the 24th of June, 1871, which is as follows:—Mr. Dougall, post-master at Kippen, handed him the following telegram (written in Latin), and requested him to read it: “Rome, 23; 7.26 p.m.—Cardinal Antonelli, Praesidi Conferentiae S. Vincentii, Kippen—‘Summus Pontifex istis civibus et conferentiae cui praesides gratiarum actiones et benedictionem apostolicam tribuit.’”

The following is the translation:—“Rome, 23rd June—From Cardinal Antonelli to the President of the Conference of St. Vincent, Kippen—‘The Holy Father sends thanks and the apostolic benediction to your associates and the conference over which you preside.’”

Mr. Dougall afterwards returned the telegram to Mr. Wilson with the following note written upon it:—“To Rev. Wm. Wilson—As the telegram must be disposed of in some way, I send it to you as the party most nearly corresponding to the designation.—R. D.”

Mr. Wilson suggested that the telegram seemed to have been sent to a Catholic fraternity who had intimated their meeting to the Pope and requested his blessing. There is some such society at Perth, but it is curious that it should have come to Kippen.

PROPOSED CANAL.

THE proposal, which has long occupied the attention of the principal Glasgow merchants, to connect the eastern and western seas by means of a navigable canal, took shape in 1723. The passage proposed was by following the River Forth up to the ford of Cardross, and then crossing the bog of Ballat, into the water of Endrick, down to Loch Lomond, and from thence by the River

Leven into the Clyde at Dumbarton. This survey took shape under Government auspices. It, however, fell in abeyance. The subject was revived in 1761 by the Trustees for the "Encouragement of Fisheries and Manufactures" in Scotland, who appointed the celebrated engineer, John Smeaton, to survey the ground, but this met the same fate as the previous one.

For many years prior to this limestone had been brought down the Forth from a rock close to Gartmore by means of small boats. There was often, however, considerable risk and delay occasioned on account of gravel shoals. It became, therefore, a question, which was long entertained by the proprietors north and south of the Forth, whether they should not adopt the suggestion of Mr. Smeaton of putting a lock at Craigforth Mill, and another lock and a dam at the Fords of Frew, in order to make the river navigable at all seasons as far as Gartmore, for the bringing of coal and lime to the district and for the transmission of grain. This project also fell to the ground.

The railway, which now runs through the valley, has not only met the wants which were long experienced in this neighbourhood, but has helped materially to increase the value of landed property in the parish.

In more recent years another survey was made of the Forth passage, for the purpose of forming a ship canal, similar to that at Manchester, and thus enabling shipping to cross direct from the eastern to the western oceans. This project has also met the same fate as its predecessors.

The intimation, early in 1903, that the Government had taken over St. Margaret's Bay, on the Firth of Forth, as a Naval Base for Scotland, renewed the question of a ship canal between the Forth and Clyde, it being contended that both in times of peace and war such a means of passing vessels from the east of Scotland to the west, and vice-versa, would be of material advantage to the nation. The question has been taken up with great enthusiasm, and the ultimate settlement may be left with the advocates of the rival schemes.

PRINCE CHARLIE.

CROSSING THE FORD OF FREW.

THE Ford of Frew, at the extreme north-east end of the parish, being in past centuries the most accessible ford in the upper reaches of the Forth, was, in consequence, much frequented by contingents of military and others, and particularly those who wished to evade the garrison at Stirling in their journeyings north and south. On the 13th September, 1745, Prince Charles Edward Stuart, elder son and heir of the Chevalier de St. George, son and heir of James II. and VII., after having landed in the Highlands from France, proceeded with his army by way of Perth, Dunblane, and Doune, crossed the Forth at the Ford of Frew, and halted at the mansion house of Leckie, where he passed the night. Next day he and his nobles passed by the south of Stirling Castle to Bannockburn House, by invitation of Sir Hugh Paterson. In December following some battering cannon from France, which had arrived at Montrose, were also brought across the ford, previous to the siege of Stirling Castle. On the 1st of February, 1746, immediately after the second battle of Falkirk, we find Prince Charlie returning northwards by the same ford, owing to Governor Blakeney having broken down the bridge at Stirling.

Mr. Macgregor Stirling has preserved the following anecdote connected with the retiring army:—When Charles Edward was understood to be about to recross the Forth in his retreat, a Captain Campbell, with a party of the King's soldiers, came the evening before to the farm of Wester Frew, and inquired particularly at Robert Forrester, one of the Earl of Moray's tenants, where the ford in the neighbourhood was. This respectable yeoman, being more attached to the family in exile than to that in possession, and suspecting that Campbell had no good intention towards what he esteemed a good cause, directed him to a ford very seldom used. Campbell took from a cart some sacks filled with caltrops, and threw

these weapons of invisible annoyance into the river. Having done so, he and his party withdrew. Next day, Charles, with a considerable number of officers, arrived at Boquhan, where they halted and dined. The spot where the army halted, about fifty yards west from the present mansion house of Boquhan, is marked by a well built of hewn stone, and bears the inscription, "Prince's Well," 1790. Forrester's sons and servants, anxious to see the noble adventurer, crossed the river, and remained in the close neighbourhood of the Prince and his staff during dinner. Having finished their meal, the warriors took the proper ford, except the Prince, who, not thinking any information necessary regarding fords he had used, rode through that in which Forrester had seen one of Campbell's men deposit some caltrops. One of those the Prince's horse picked up, and, of course, was wounded.

It is related by the Rev. Dr. Patrick Murray, minister of Kilmadock Parish, that one of the young Forresters told him that he had been apprehensive lest he could find nobody to point out the Prince, and might not be able certainly to say he had seen one who, although he might never wear a crown, was, in the opinion of his father's family, entitled to that dignity.

"But," said Forrester, waxen old when he told the story, "there was no occasion for this anxiety, for there was a something in the brave Ascanius (his poetical name) which should have pointed him out to me, young as I was, as the son of a King among ten thousand."

ROB ROY.

THE HERRISHIP OF KIPPEN.

THE Parish of Kippen has furnished the scene of several episodes in connection with Rob Roy, among which the most outstanding are—The herriship or devastation of Kippen by Rob Roy, and the abduction of Jean Key by Robin Oig.

Dr. Campbell, in his statistical account of the parish,

speaks of a visit paid to Kippen by Rob Roy, which was known as "the Kippen herriship." Rob pretended to have a commission from King James to plunder the rebel Whigs, and might thus be said to be acting under General Cannon, who succeeded Dundee as James's commander-in-chief. Possibly it may be the same foray that is referred to when Ure of Shirgarton's goods, and those of his tenants, were carried off. Mr. Macgregor Stirling, minister of Port of Menteith, in his "History of Stirlingshire," referring to this incident, says: "The averments of the statist of Kippen that old Rob Roy was a 'robber by profession,' is not supported by the instance brought forward, that in 1691 he had headed 'the herriship of Kippen,' which amounts to nothing more than a military diversion by the Laird of Inversnaid in favour of his legitimate sovereign." Rob Roy had, it would appear, subsequent to his expulsion from his lands, been a contractor for aiding the police of the country, and in the habit of receiving what, in allusion to earlier times when contracts for this purpose had not received the countenance of law, was called "black maill." He asserted an alleged claim on this score, somewhat differently from his accustomed urbanity. Mr. Stirling of Garden, in 1710, had with his lady gone on a visit from Garden Castle, which stood on an eminence forming an island in what was once a lake, but is now a fertile meadow. On their return they found the fortalice occupied by a party under Robert Roy Macgregor, and the draw-bridge up. Robert, appearing at a window, thus accosted the ousted owner:—"You have hitherto withheld the reward of protection, Garden, but must render it now." Garden firmly refused, stating reasons more satisfactory to himself than to the other party, when the latter, bringing a child from the nursery, held it out of the window. The father, partly by the entreaties of the mother, was induced to comply.



BRIG O' FREW, KIPPEN.

SWORDSMANSHIP.

The following anecdote is connected with what has been said of Rob Roy's personal prowess. He had been overnight in an alehouse at Arnprior, in company with Cunningham of Boquhan. They had quarrelled, and the latter having no sword, sent home for one, which, however, his family, suspecting a foolish broil, did not forward. He and Robert remained till break of day, when Boquhan, spying a rapier in a corner, insisted on fighting. Robert engaged, but instantly dropped his blade's point and yielded to one who he found was too expert a swordsman.

THE ABDUCTION OF JEAN KEY.

The following is the story of the abduction of Jean Key of Edinbelly by Rob Oig, youngest son of Robert Roy Macgregor. About 1732 James Key, a native of Strathendrick, with a fortune of £2,000, married a lady of the name of Janet Mitchell. The issue of this marriage was one daughter, Jean, born in October of that year. In 1742 Mr. Key purchased the property of Edinbelly, for which he paid £1,500, the balance going in stock and furniture. In 1744 Mr. Key suddenly died intestate, and his daughter, then in her twelfth year, became heiress of the property and effects. After this she was naturally an object of considerable interest in the valley, and as she advanced in years she had many suitors, among the number being Mr. John Wright, son of the laird of Easter Glinns—a portion of which is now included in the estate of Wright Park—whom she married in 1749, being then in her nineteenth year.

All now went well for a time, but by Mr. Wright's unexpected death, in October, 1750, about a year after marriage, she again became an object of interest. It would appear that Robert Oig got his eye on the young widow shortly after the death of her husband, and he thereafter called at the Black Bull Inn, Kippen, from whence he dispatched a messenger to Wright Park, "desiring leave to visit her." This being refused, the

wrath of the Macgregor was roused, and he declared that if "fair wooing would not do, he should carry her off by force."

Mrs. Wright, well knowing the determined character of the clan, advised her daughter-in-law to be on her guard, and for safety thought she had better remove to Glasgow. Jean, however, treated the matter lightly, only removing a few miles further west, to Edinbelly, the home of her mother.

Rob, with his three brothers and five retainers, left Balquhiddy in due course, determined on capturing the heiress, and in order to avoid the villages of Aberfoyle and Gartmore, they appear to have taken the old ride track down the west side of Loch Ard and Gartmore, reaching the well-known hostelry at Chapelarroch the same night. The evening being very dark, and a moorland country to be crossed, one of the brothers rode back to Gartmore, and got two local smugglers to act as guides. Shortly after leaving Chapelarroch, Rob received the tidings that Jean had removed to Edinbelly. Arriving at that place, they at once seized the object of their search, and placing her on the saddle behind her future husband, rode off in triumph. The horse of one of the Gartmore smugglers, however, got bogged, and this caused some delay. That night, at the then little inn of Rowardennan, a sham marriage took place, and next morning they crossed Loch Lomond, for the house of Mr. Campbell of Glenfalloch, and ultimately landed at Inverorick.

Meantime, to prevent Macgregor taking possession of the estate, Jean's friends had the property sequestrated, and warrants issued for the capture of the offenders. Some time after, James, Rob Oig's brother, accompanied by Jean, left Lochend House, on the shore of the Lake of Menteith, and rode off to Edinburgh, with the view of presenting a bill of suspension regarding the sequestration of her property. This, however, was bearding the lion in his den, the lady being cared for by the authorities, while James was allowed to return home. Jean Key emitted her declaration on the 20th of May following, and the

Macgregors and their accomplices were summoned to stand their trial at the Justiciary Court at Perth, to be held on the 25th of May, but, disregarding with contempt all such forms of law, they were all, nine in number, declared outlaws.

By order of the Court of Session, Mrs. Wright was placed under the care of one John Wightman, of Maulsley, in the Potter Row, near Edinburgh, who was, along with the magistrates, responsible for her safe keeping. By order of the Court she was set at liberty on the 4th of June, and returned to some friends in Glasgow on the 7th of the same month, where she remained till her death by smallpox on the 4th of October, 1751.

Rob Oig was apprehended by a party of military from the fort of Inversnaid, at the foot of Gartmore, and was conveyed to Edinburgh on the 26th of May, 1753. After a delay of some months in prison, he was brought to the bar of the High Court of Justiciary and indicted by the name of Robert Macgregor, *alias* Campbell, *alias* Robert Oig, and found guilty of being art and part in the forcible abduction of Jean Key from her own dwelling. He was therefore condemned to death, and was executed at Edinburgh on 14th February, 1754.

The family of Key, of Wright Park and Edinbelly, are buried near to the ivy-clad ruins of the Old Parish Church of Kippen, and the spot is marked by a tombstone bearing the following inscription :—

In Memory of
WILLIAM KEY
(the last of the name),
of Edinbelly and Wright Park,
who died March, 1848,
aged 72 years,
and
JANE LAING, his wife,
who died September, 1851.

BOQUHAN.

THE BATTLE OF BALLOCHLEAM.

IT may be interesting to record here several old traditions in connection with Boquhan estate. Boquhan, it would appear, had been anciently an appanage of Dundaff, and in possession of the Grahams. The late learned Lieut.-General Fletcher Campbell, of Saltoun and Boquhan, in a curious MS. left by him, alludes to a battle in the neighbourhood between Graham of Boquhan and Leckie of Leckie, regarding which we know nothing beyond what is contained in the following reference—"The ballad," he says, "that celebrates the battle of Ballochleam was still sung by a lady of our days. The Leckies must have been of considerable number at that time if they could cope with the Grahams." The general further tells us that, "in the hollow of one of these fields, searching for limestone, an old tenant found some pieces of brass armour, together with the points of spears, and a great quantity of different bones. He said that he had intended to go on, but a thought came that he might raise up the plague."

PROPRIETORS OF BOQUHAN.

In a MS., of date 1793, by General Campbell, we find a passage which, though not vouched, is entitled to credit from the character of the author. Speaking of Sir John De Grahame's castle, he says, "From these heights the Barons of Boquhan had descended to the dryfields, the ruins of their ancient tower were but lately dug up in the field of Old Hall; and some aged men can remember the old iron door and grated windows. A modern house in the carse with open fields, near the high road, receives the present proprietor," meaning himself. Nimmo says—"There is some reason to think that Boquhan belonged to the Earls of Menteith, of the name of Graham. Sir Colin Campbell of Boquhan's mother, second wife of his father,

was Lady Margaret Graham, daughter of the Earl of Menteith. The Earls of Menteith were anciently patrons of Kippen, a presumption of land property in the neighbourhood, more especially in olden times. Succeeding the Grahams, Boquhan came into the possession of Sir Colin Campbell, younger son of Archibald, 4th Earl of Argyle, and, after the death of his elder brother without issue, 6th Earl. He was father of Archibald, 7th Earl of Argyle, and of James, created Earl of Irvine. In modern times it was in the hands of the Cunninghames; it was latterly left by Miss Mary Cunninghame to the late well-known Lord Milton's second son, Henry Fletcher, who, in virtue of a clause in the settlement, took the surname of Campbell, and, dying without issue, was succeeded by his younger brother, John, the accomplished and patriotic Lieut.-General, who, as he was the only surviving brother, possessed, under the double name of Fletcher-Campbell, the two estates of Saltoun and Boquhan. They were then divided between his two sons, Andrew Fletcher, Esq., of Saltoun, and Henry Fletcher Campbell, Esq., of Boquhan."

In 1900, Admiral Henry John Fletcher Campbell, R.N., C.B., of Boquhan, who succeeded his father, Henry Fletcher Campbell, sold the estate to Stephen Mitchell, Esq., tobacco manufacturer, Glasgow, who is considerably enhancing the value of the estate by varied improvements. Besides erecting several estate workmen's houses, on the most approved sanitary principles, a handsome porter lodge of Swiss design, admitted to be the finest lodge in the county, has been erected at the approach to the mansion house near Kippen Station.

LOCH LEGGAN.

CROOKS OF BROICH.

ON the muir of Newmill, close to the highway leading to Fintry, is a small lake called Loch Leggan, about a mile in circumference, and for the most part surrounded with a wood composed of fir trees. There are no visible feeders to the loch—that is to say, there are no burns running into it—yet it is always plentifully supplied with water. A considerable stream issues from it, and this favours the conclusion that the loch is fed from numerous springs. The water wheel of a meal mill, some two or three hundred yards down, is driven by this stream, and the fact of the miller at Broich having always plenty of water favours this theory. The stream, increasing as it flows, forms the burn of Broich, whose waters, after passing through a beautiful glen close by the old house of Broich, and the present mansion house of Arngomery, meanders, serpent-like, through the lands of Fairfield, and thus earns the name of the “Crooks of Broich,” ere it discharges itself into the Forth. At one time a portion of this burn was employed in floating moss from the plain below.

AN ISLAND DWELLING.

The Rev. Mr. Wilson has preserved several interesting traditions connected with this loch. One is that a house stood in the centre, that in the hollow there was a spring, with a huge stone upon it, that the stone by some mistake was removed, and the house flooded in consequence. In the old statistical account of the parish, Dr. Campbell, speaking of the loch, says that “in the middle there is a cairn, or heap of stones, supposed to be the ruins of an old house, of which, however, no authentic account can now be obtained.”

The fact, however, that the remains of a causeway, about 7 feet wide, extends from the north, and runs

in a south-westerly direction until it is lost in the loch, and lost in the soil, favours this tradition. Similar cairns have been found in most of the lochs of Scotland, and in some instances, too, causeways, and within the last few years antiquaries have made additional discoveries regarding them, *e.g.*, in Queen Margaret's Loch, near Forfar; in Carlingwark Loch, in Galloway; in Kinellan Loch, in Ross-shire; in the loch of Dowalton, in Wigtownshire (which was drained in the summer of 1863 by the late Sir W. Maxwell of Monreith), and in the Loch of Leys, where from time immemorial the building has been known as the Castle of Leys.

The cairn in the centre of Loch Leggan, with the causeway on the shore, are generally supposed to be the remains of a crannog—an island dwelling erected on wooden piles jointed together—where some of the chiefs or nobles belonging to the parish permanently resided; in any case, where they retreated in times of danger. There have also been found dwellings similarly constructed in other countries as well as Scotland. In Ireland they are very numerous. The Irish crannogs were erected chiefly in bogs or deep morasses, and were called *insula fortificata*. The Swiss were in the habit of building large villages along the shores of the lakes, on platforms, supported on piles, such as have been found in our Scotch lochs, which they reached by means of gangways. Similar dwellings, too, have been found in Denmark and Hanover, in Savoy and Upper Italy.

THE BLOODY MIRES.

Tradition has it that a battle was fought to the north-east of Loch Leggan, about the year 1534, at the place which is still known by the name of the Bloody Mires. The battle arose on account of a dispute betwixt the inhabitants of the baronies of Dasher and Arnprior regarding the course of the stream which issues from the loch. Many lost their lives on the occasion. The matter having been brought under the notice of King James V., who was then residing at Stirling, he gave instructions for the

stream to be diverted into a channel different from the wishes of the inhabitants, which course it still holds. Two swords and a stirrup and spur were found eighteen inches below the surface by Mr. James Buchan, Arnprior, in 1858, while making a road over a marshy place near the wood known as The Firs, above Arnmore, close to what is called Bloody Mires, and these relics may go towards proving the tradition that a battle was fought here, and, further, that there were dragoons engaged on the occasion of the encounter.

KEIR HILLS.

THERE are no less than five places in the parish which from time immemorial have been known as "Keirs," or forts, viz. :—

KEIR HILL OF GLENTIRBRAN, above the present mansion house of Boquhan, a portion of which has been used by the family of Fletcher-Campbell as a burying place.

KEIR HILL OF DASHER, situated on the west bank of Cuthbertson Glen, on the property of Kirkhill, presently covered with oak trees.

KEIR BRAE OF DRUM, looking eastward on the north side of the burn which separates the farm of Drum from Gateside.

KEIR KNOWE OF ARNMORE, west from the present farm steading of Laraben, scarcely traceable.

KEIR BRAE OF GARDEN, on the western boundary of the property of Garden.

The two most perfect Keirs are those of Dasher and Drum. There is also at Garden, to the east of the present mansion house, the remains of what has been known for generations as the Peel of Garden, situated upon a peninsula on the north-west side of what was a morass or loch. This morass was drained many years ago, and is now called the Meadow. Around this peel there was a rampart, or outer fortification, called a barm-kyn or a

berm-kyn, and a ditch, pretty entire until the middle of the nineteenth century.

These peel towers were usually three storeys high. In times of danger the cattle were placed in the lower storey, while the second and third storeys were chiefly occupied by the women and children of the family. The battlement, or bartizan, was used as a place of outlook, while near the roof hung a large iron cone, sunk in an iron grating, which was always filled with wood, called the bale or needfire, ready to be lit at a moment's notice. In the "Lay of the Last Minstrel," Sir Walter Scott thus refers to this rude mode of telegraphing—

"The ready page, with hurried hand,
Awakened the need fire's slumbering brand,
And ruddy blushed the heaven ;
For a sheet of flame from the turret high,
Waved like a blood flag on the sky,
All flaring and uneven,
And soon a score of fires, I ween,
From height, and hill, and cliff were seen ;
Each with warlike tidings fraught,
Each from each the signal caught."

THEIR BUILDERS.

Now the question is—Who built those Keirs ? They have been variously called British, Pictish, and Norwegian. The author of the old "Statistical Account" seems to favour the idea that they were erected by the Romans. They are certainly not Roman remains, for the Romans erected their fortifications on the plains for temporary protection, and they had always a figure, with four right angles or a square, and sometimes an oblong, while the Keirs were all oval, if not circular. Again, they are certainly not Norwegian, as they came from a country where wood was used only in the construction of edifices and it is most unlikely that, being unskilled in the use of stone, the Norwegians would take to it for building purposes in the land of their adoption. Besides, no such edifices were ever known to exist in Norway. We are, therefore, forced to the conclusion that these Keirs were

Pictish remains. Like other places of fortification, they were doubtless often destroyed and often rebuilt. This may have continued during the period known as the Viking period in Scotland, and also during the struggles of the feudal ages. Tradition says that the Picts had a city at the confluence of the Goodie with the Forth, in the fifth or sixth centuries, supposed to have been built of clay. It would be in vain, therefore, to dig for any remains of the Picts there.

WHAT WERE KEIRS?

This leads us to enquire, what were those Keirs? Their very existence implies life, energy, skill; that they were the resort of human beings like ourselves, who experienced hopes and fears, joys and sorrows. We cannot doubt that within them, around them, there were deeds of daring, oftentimes dauntlessly displayed. But what were they? Were they mere forts or dwelling-places, or places for signalling? It is suggested that it is not unlikely they were used for all these purposes together during times of war and danger, and are what antiquaries call Brochs, the typical form of which is a hollow, circular tower of dry-built masonry, 50 feet in height and 60 feet in diameter, with walls 15 feet thick, containing oblong chambers with vaulted roofs.

BROCHS AT COLDOCH AND DRUM.

In the year 1874 Mr. Graham of Coldoch, on the other side of the valley, had a mound on his estate similar in construction to above description explored, and which was pronounced to be the remains of a Broch, perfect in all its parts. This erection is still preserved in good condition, and believed to be a Broch, notwithstanding the statement of many antiquaries that there were no Brochs south of the Forth.

In 1832, Mr. Zuill, farmer at Drum, requiring stones for building purposes, partly opened the Keir Brae of Drum. According to the account of John Logan, Cauldhame, who was employed to give assistance, they dis-

covered a circular building built like a drystone dyke, with flat, rude stones without mortar. They were arrested in their work, however, by the appearance of flags, conveying the idea that it had been a place of sepulture, but no bones were found, only a dark, earthy substance, like bodies crumbled to dust. This, however, by no means detracts from the theory advanced that these remains are Brochs, and had been dwelling places in ages past, as it may have been customary to bury the dead within Brochs, just as it was the practice to bury the dead under the floor of the old church of Kippen, the tower of which still stands in the graveyard.

PEAT MOSS.

PPEAT MOSS is to be found everywhere in the north of Europe; indeed, many millions of acres are covered with it, yet its study has been very much neglected or overlooked by naturalists and scientific men, who appear to regard it as either unworthy of their notice or at least unworthy of the appliances of scientific research.

In its original state the moss in the valley is from ten to thirteen feet deep, one half—the upper—is known as the white or flow moss, the under being black moss, which not only makes the best peats, but it was from this that the peat houses were made by those who were engaged about the beginning of the nineteenth century in clearing the moss from what is now converted into some of the finest arable farms in the valley of the Forth. A portion of the Burn of Broich was diverted through the lands of Strewiebank, and thence to Kippen Moss, where it was employed in flooding the moss through channels to the Forth. For a similar purpose a steam pump was erected on the banks of the Forth by the proprietors of Blackhouse, and the ruins of the brick building used at this time are still to be seen. This pump forced the water up into lochs, or dams, constructed on top of the moss, and reclaimed a considerable portion of the land on the farms of Blackhouse and Littlekerse.

ROMAN RELICS FOUND.

The operations resulted in excellent meadow and arable lands being reclaimed, while at same time they yielded several interesting Roman relics, which are now preserved in the Antiquarian Museum of Edinburgh. Beneath the moss, juniper, hazel, birch, rowan, and various large trees—oak and pine especially—have been found. Trunks, 60 feet in length, and from 4 to 6 feet in diameter, have been found, indicating the existence of a forest, and the fact that the trees have their roots in the earth is evidence that they grew there. Many of the trees seem broken off near the surface of clay, and have charred wood in large quantities all round their roots, indicating that they were destroyed by fire, while others bear the marks of having been felled with the hatchet.

RECLAIMING THE LAND.

The reclaiming of this waste land was discontinued about 1853, owing to the fishery proprietors on the lower reaches of the Forth objecting to the large pieces of moss being floated down the river completely destroying their fishing nets; while the cost of clearing was also heavy, as it takes not less than £30 to clear each acre, while the rent of an acre, when cleared and cultivated, is, over all, about 30s. The practice of cutting peats for fuel is also dying out, owing to the expense and labour involved.

Scientific research, however, has pointed to the possibility of a new era dawning in utilising this peat moss—which covers ground of most excellent quality—in the manufacture of carpets, articles of clothing, etc. Fabrics woven from it are found to have the toughness of linen with the warmth of wool. Paper of several qualities has been already manufactured from moss, and the many uses to which peat fibres have been applied indicates possibilities that may render the large stretches of moss in the Kippen district a valuable addition to its resources in the future.

BOTANY OF THE PARISH.

IN a district so diversified with hill and dale, aspects and soils, it is no wonder that a great variety of plants should be found. Hills, dryfield, clays, sands, moors, mosses, and woodlands cannot but furnish an ample flora. Various tints of green are spread over the hills and dales, hedgerows, and gardens; while the varied walks by moor, woodland, river banks, or by the dusty roadsides, are literally studded with flowers. Of all the propensities of plants, however, none seem more strange than their different periods of blooming. Some produce their flowers in the winter, or very first dawns of spring, many when the spring is established, some at midsummer, and some not till autumn. To enumerate all the plants that have been discovered within the confines of the parish would be a needless task; but a short list of the commoner varieties found may be neither unacceptable nor unentertaining.

In walking along our highways we find several varieties of the dog rose, which takes precedence among the wild flowers, in like manner as her more tender sister ranks as queen of the garden, the varieties being *Rosa Arvensis*, *Rosa Lucida*, glossy rose; *Rosa Spinosissima*, and *Rosa Rubiginosa*, sweet briar. Perhaps as pretty as any wild rose, in flower, fruit, and delightful fragrance, must next be placed the "lone hairbell," *Campanula Carpatica* and *Campanula Rotundifolia*, while a host of others, including masses of "speedwell," *Veronica Gentianoides* and *Veronica Longifolia*; pretty silver weeds, *Potentilla Alpestris* and *P. Anserina*; white musk mallow, *Malva Moschata*; cushion pink, *Silene Acaulis*; rest harrow, *Ononis Arvensis*; and the fragrant honeysuckle, *Lonicera Perelymenum*, are to be found in rich profusion.

In pastures and fields we find the common celandine (*Chelidonium majus*), the shining crane's bill (*Genarium lucidum*), the bladder campion (*Silene inflata*), white and red dead nettle (*Laminium album* and *L. purpureum*),

pink persicaria (*Polygonum persicaria*), and scarlet pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis*).

In the woods and thickets are found the sweet woodruff (*asperula odorata*) and pretty little tuberous moschatell (*Adoxa moschatellina*), the lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis*), foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), deadly night shade (*Atropa belladonna*), the cuckoo pint (*Arum maculatum*), and the giant bell-flower (*Campanula latifolia*).

Then, in the moors and high-lying lands, we find the cow or red whortle berry (*Vaccinium vitis idaea*), its berries of a rich crimson, and generally ripe about the middle of August, this berry being recognised as the badge of the Clan M'Leod; butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*), milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*), common ling (*Erica vulgaris*), wild mignonette (*Reseda luteola*), and red mint (*Mentha rubra*).

Along the river-sides, and in marshy places, we find several species of the Ranunculus (*Nymphæa alba*) or the white water lily, while the water lobelia (*Lobelia dortmanna*) is found in pools or miniature lakes. The water hemlock or cowbane (*Cicuta virosa*) is to be found occasionally on the banks of the Forth, but, being of a poisonous nature, is happily scarce.

The trees planted or indigenous to the district are oak, beech, Scotch fir, ash, birch, spruce, silver fir, larch, and hazel. In addition to the plantations that surround the houses of proprietors, every glen and ravine is covered with copsewood. There are some magnificent oaks and beeches on the estates of Boquhan and Garden, while 562 acres of woodland are under cultivation in the parish.

Throughout the parish are to be found almost the whole family of ferns, mosses, lichens, and gnaphaliums. The bracken is to be found everywhere; while a host of graceful ferns, in numerous variety, are to be found in the partial shade of open woods, grassy glades, paths, drives, and old walls. Among a few of the varieties are found the black-stemmed spleenwort in its pretty crested and notched form, the little wall rue or rue fern, the

forked and other native spleenworts, beech fern (*Polypodium phegopteris*), oak fern (*Polypodium dryopteris*), mountain buckler (*Lastrea montana*), lady fern (*Athyrium filix fœmina*), male fern (*Lastrea felix-mas*), mountain parsley (*Allosorus crispus*), prickly shield (*Polystichum aculeatum*), common polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*). Common hart's tongue (*Scolopendrium vulgare*) is to be found in many places, notably on the sides of the wall of the "Auld Brig of Boquhan," and on the face of the rock at "Lecky's Loup," Cuthbertson Glen, and various other spots. The haunts of the fern, surrounded by the beauties and harmonies of natural colour, present a peculiarly fascinating attraction, where the student of nature can participate in many lessons without fees.

The following verses express what a student of nature felt on visiting the woodlands and glens in the parish :—

The wild flowers of Kippen, how sweetly they bloom
By woodland and moorland so wild ;
Her highways and byways they light up and illumine—
Pure children of earth undefiled.

They deck the green braes, where the lambs are at play,
And they glisten on pasture land old ;
They festoon old ruins with green, waving spray,
And bright tints of crimson and gold.

When the breath of the spring floats warm o'er the land,
And the voice of the mavis is sweet,
Then the wild flowers come forth, an innocent band,
To brighten each lovely retreat ;

When the sunlints are bright on the banks of the stream,
Where the angler is plying his art,
While the dewdrops around like silver beads gleam,
There ye spring up to gladden our heart.

The buttercup rich spreads her breast to the sun,
While the violet hides in the shade ;
The sorrel, white-robed, and the cuckoo pint, dun,
Besprinkle the meadow and glade.

Would you find them ? Then go to the woodland, the field,
To the green home of bird and of bee ;
And vigour and health is the boon that they yield,
And a converse with Nature all free.

GEOLOGY OF KIPPEN PARISH.

FOR its size, the parish of Kippen presents a considerable variety of geological structure. Speaking generally, it consists of a series of low hills, bounded on the north by the flat plain of the Carse of Stirling, and on the south by the Endrick Valley and the hollow which lies at the northern base of Stronend and the Gargunnock Hills. These low hills are formed of abraded sandstone of various formations. The greater portion consists of Old Red Sandstone, part of the great belt of that formation which stretches across Scotland, from Stonehaven on the north-east to Rothesay on the south-west. The south-eastern boundary of the formation goes right through the parish of Kippen, passing behind the village a few yards south of the main street. No trace of this great fault, representing the junction of two important geological formations, appears at the surface. The Old Red Sandstone rocks in Kippen parish consist of dull red and grey sandstones, which are exposed at various points in the courses of small streams. These are succeeded on the south-east, on the other side of the line of junction, by a band of bright red stone belonging to the Calcareous Sandstone series, the lowest members of the great Carboniferous formation. The brilliant colour of this stone is most noticeable, and the rock is quarried at different parts of the parish, most of the houses in the locality being built of it. Its red colour has caused it to be associated with the Old Red Sandstone, which it immediately adjoins, and Hugh Miller and other geologists have reckoned it as the highest member of the last-mentioned formation, but it is generally considered now as the lowest member of the Carboniferous formation. Towards the base of the Gargunnock Hills, the shales and grey sandstones of the Cement-stone group of the Calcareous Sandstone appear. The most noticeable feature in the landscape of the parish is the steep slope of Stronend and the adjoining hills. Although these are

beyond the boundary of the parish, no account of its geology would be complete without some mention of them. These hills form the northern edge of the extensive plateau which at its various parts is known as the Campsie Fells, Kilsyth Hills, Touch Hills, Gargunnoch and Fintry Hills. The plateau consists of a series of sheets of porphyrite, a volcanic rock of Carboniferous age. Associated with the porphyrite are bands of tuff agglomerate, which prove that this was a region of great volcanic activity in ancient times. The porphyrite, which is an ancient lava, appears in a series of flows one upon the other, and this is the cause of those parallel horizontal lines which are such a striking feature of the ridge. Each lava flow ends in a vertical face, at the base of which a talus of weathered rock has accumulated, assuming a steep slope. Each successive lava flow is marked by a vertical cliff with its sloping talus, and thus has arisen the peculiar appearance of successive cliff and slope on the northern face of the hill.

In the parish of Kippen there is abundant evidence of glaciation. The whole of the central portion of the parish presents that abraded appearance resulting from the prolonged action of the ice sheet in glacial times. The surface is worn into hummocks and ridges, and on this, glacial striae or scratches can be distinctly seen at places. The direction of the ridges and of the striae is identical, and by the compass reads 75 degrees W.N.W. by E.S.E. On Gribloch Moor the rock crops out repeatedly at the surface, among peat and heather. It has an exceedingly rough appearance, and is so covered with grey lichens that it is only on examination that we see that the rock is a sandstone of brilliant red colour. The sandstone is so soft as not to have retained very clearly the finer markings of the ice, as a harder rock would have done; but its ridged appearance and the general contour of the district give clear evidence of extreme glaciation. The whole water-shed between the Forth and the Endrick is a succession of low, rounded hills, with peat moss, and occasionally a small loch in the hollows—a characteristic

ice-worn region. All the lower ground is covered with sheets of boulder clay, the material resulting from the wearing action of the ice. The long valley south of Wright Park is a true glacial valley, the result of the greater impact there of the ice, owing to the resistance of the hard porphyritic rock of Stronend. Travelled boulders, consisting chiefly of fragments of Highland rocks from the north-west, may be seen here and there in the parish, but these are not very plentiful compared with other neighbouring districts.

One of the principal natural features of the parish is the flat portion of the Carse of Stirling, which is a "raised beach," or old ocean floor, relic of a time when the salt waters of the Forth estuary rolled westward as far as Gartmore. Had there been no change since then in the relative levels of land and sea, Kippen would now have been a seaside village, on the southern margin of the Firth of Forth. The old coast line can be distinctly traced throughout its whole length in the parish of Kippen, following a winding course. Near Port of Menteith Station a long promontory stretches out to the north, between which and Cardross the ancient estuary must have been reduced to a narrow strait. Between the station and Arnprior village was a well-marked bay, from which the coast line passes eastward underneath where the village of Kippen now stands. The old coast line can still be seen at any point on the southern margin of the carse, where the land rises with a steep slope, at some places even with a precipitous cliff, which looks as if the waters of the ancient ocean had just receded. It can also be very well studied at many points in the immediate vicinity of Kippen. All over the carse are beds of marine shells, chiefly oysters, at a depth of several feet below the surface. There are at least fourteen well-authenticated cases of the remains of whales being found imbedded in the carse clays, none of them, however, in the parish of Kippen. Along with several of the whale remains were human implements, proving that man was contemporary with the old Forth estuary now marked by the fifty feet raised beach. There are evidences of a still

older coast line, forming the boundary of the 100 feet raised beach, an older and higher ocean floor, which in the parish of Kippen cannot be so clearly traced.

The most recent geological formation in the parish is the peat moss overlying the clays of the carse, and known as Flanders Moss. This has been entirely formed since the human race inhabited this country. The moss would begin to form whenever the sea retired, leaving a flat and stagnant swamp, very imperfectly drained by the river Forth, which had not had time to carve its winding course out of the carse clays. The moss must have continued to grow down to historical times, though reclamation and drainage have now stopped its growth.

SMUGGLING.

THE SMA' STILL AND SMA' KEG.

UNTIL about the close of the eighteenth century smuggling was unknown, or, as we might say, was unnecessary in the locality. Kippen parish, being peculiarly intersected by portions of Perthshire, was placed by an old Act on the North, or Highland, side of the line, and had certain privileges for the somewhat free manufacture of whisky. By a subsequent Act, however, dated 1793, placing the parish on the South side of the line, these privileges were withdrawn, and, as a consequence, an extensive trade in the illicit distilling of whisky was carried on, which was not considered a crime so long as those engaged in it kept clear of the officers of the law. Men of all shades of character were connected with this hazardous occupation, from the lawless ruffian, who would not scruple to commit murder if need be, to the simple-minded cottar, who was incapable of doing any mischief.

It is related that many novel and ingenious methods were resorted to by those engaged in the "trade" in getting the product of the "sma' still" conveyed to Glasgow and neighbouring towns without raising suspicion. At that time a good trade was done by the inhabitants of the parish in supplying those of the City of Glasgow with cartloads of peats, driving them by way of Fintry, Crow Road, and Campsie; and this business afforded one of the mediums of getting the "genuine article" conveyed unobserved. The "sma' keg" was usually placed in the middle of the cart, while the peats were built firmly in the form of a wall around it. Thus equipped, the innocent-looking cottar, driving his horse laden with the fruits of his industry, wended his way to the town unmolested by the Excise officials.

Several daring and exciting incidents, however, took place between the smugglers and the Excise officers at various times about the beginning of the nineteenth century. Excise officials differed materially in their views as to the discharge of their duties: while some were stern and rigorous, and never missed an opportunity of bringing the offenders to justice, others were of opinion that they only deserved to be caught when they did not keep proper hours. The former class were certain, sooner or later, to meet the reward of their temerity at the hands of the smugglers, by being waylaid and thrashed, and in some instances murdered; whereas the latter class fared sumptuously at their hands, in houses kept "het an' reekin'," which simply meant fully stored with meat and drink.

A MAN-OF-WAR'S TRICK.

In those days a Mr. Hosie was Excise officer in Buchlyvie, and had charge of the ride district. He was somewhat short built, but was of a proud disposition, and waged war against the smugglers with considerable rigour. Having got information against a notorious smuggler, and not daring to run the risk of apprehending him, he cited him to attend a Sheriff Court to be held in Drymen, with a view to his capture. Hosie called in the assistance of the men from the Government cutter stationed on Loch Lomond. The sheriff duly arrived, accompanied by a number of county gentlemen, among them being the late Captain M'Lachlan, of Auchentroig. The smuggler attended, not expecting anything serious; but when about to enter the court-room he observed a number of bluejackets through a slit in the door. Turning the key cautiously in the lock, and slipping it into his pocket, he walked into the court-room. Mr. Hosie was sitting near the window, and on the smuggler's entry rose to state the complaint. Looking round, the smuggler observed that two officers had taken their places at the door, and, seizing the lower sash of the window, he

pulled it to him, and dashed it with great violence over Hosie's head, then vaulted into the road below, and walked quietly away, none daring to follow him. Captain M'Lachlan exclaimed, "That's a rare man-of-war's trick," while the other gentlemen indulged in a hearty laugh; but Hosie was rather seriously cut, and some difficulty was experienced in getting his head extricated from the broken window frame.

EXCISE OFFICERS' DANGERS.

Stationed over the country to assist the regular excisemen were officers, with smaller or larger bodies of assistants, as the necessity of the district might require. These were commonly called "rangers," the chief of whom was an officer of the name of Dougal, who resided in Kippen. He was a very quiet and inoffensive man, but powerful and of a self-reliant nature. He was much liked by the smugglers, and often told them that a smuggler deserved to be taken if he did not keep smugglers' hours. Mr. Dougal had been repeatedly warned of the threatening character of one of the worst of the class, who resided near the upper part of Arnprior Glen, but he treated these warnings lightly, saying that he was a match for him at any time. Once, when riding between the villages of Arnprior and Fintry, on accidentally looking round, he observed this man priming his pistol behind a dyke on the roadside, which enclosed a dense plantation of fir trees known as "the firs of Kippen." Being at the time unarmed, but possessed of considerable presence of mind, he suddenly dashed his hand into his pocket and took out a small spy-glass. Springing from his horse, he rushed to the place where the smuggler lay concealed, crying, "Come on, I am ready for you, my lad." The would-be assassin, taking the spy-glass for a pistol, fled into the wood, and Mr. Dougal rode on his way to Fintry. Some short time after this, Mr. Dougal went amissing, and dark suspicions floated about that he had been the victim of foul play. Almost six weeks had passed without any news

of the missing ranger, when one day a shepherd on the farm of Muirend, in quest of some lost sheep, was searching a corry or deep ravine close to Boquhan Glen, and discovered the mutilated remains of Dougal. Well-grounded suspicion soon fell upon the man who had openly threatened to murder Dougal, and he was afterwards totally shunned by his former companions, and died a wandering outcast.

DOUGAL'S TOWER.

A natural tower, composed of a huge mass of red sandstone rock, standing in front of a ravine at Muirend, where Dougal was found, perpetuates his name under the designation of "Dougal's Tower."

On the other hand, it is traditionally related that this tower perpetuates the name of Dougall, a Covenanter, who had successfully made use of it as a hiding-place, while being pursued by the dragoons for attending a conventicle or field-preaching at the Gribloch.

THE LAST OF THE RACE.

The last smuggler known to engage in this precarious trade in Kippen parish was the late Daniel MacAllum, Thorntree, who carried on his "sma' still" in a secluded part of the "firs," on the shores of Loch Leggan, but, owing to the vigilant and rigorous laws of the Excise and the heavy penalties imposed, he gave up the practice about the year 1860.

BLACK MAIL.

FEW ancient customs are so generally, yet so imperfectly, known as that of black mail. It was, however, simply a lawful and beneficial service to the public which now falls to be performed by the police, or, in other words, money paid voluntarily by contract for the protection of property against the depredations of migratory freebooters who lurked on the borders of the Highlands. One of the original documents still in the possession of the descendants of Mr. Dunmore of Ballikinrain is drawn up as a contract between James and John Graham, elder and younger, of Glengyle, and gentlemen, heritors and tenants, within the shires of Perth, Stirling, and Dum-barton. The latter put themselves under the protection of the Grahams for an annual payment of £4 per £100 of rental. For this sum, the cattle, sheep, and horses were practically insured against loss, as the Grahams agreed either to return the cattle stolen within six months or make payment of their true value. Pickerey, such as the lifting of cattle or sheep in small numbers, was not to be considered as coming under the agreement, but any number above six was; and horses and cattle carried to the south, if not recoverable, were paid for by the Grahams at the discretion of the owners; the contract to be nullified in the event of war. The contract concludes as follows:—

“ In witness whereof,

ROBERT BONTEIN of MILDOVAN, for my lands of Balglas, in the paroch of Killern, being three hundred and fifty pound of valuation: and lands of Provanston in the paroch of Balfron, ninety-seven pound seven shilling valuation.

JAMES NAPIER of BALLIKINRAIN, for my lands in the paroch of Killern, being two hundred and sixtie pound of



DOUGAL'S TOWER, KIPPEN.

valuation. And for my Lord Napier's lands in said paroch, being three hundred and twentie-eight pound of valuation, and for Culcreuch's lands in the paroch of Fintrie, being seven hundred and twentie-seven pound of valuation, and for said Culcreuch's lands in the paroch of Balfrone, being one hundred and ten pound valuation.

HUGH BUCHANAN of BALQUHAN, for my lands of Boughan and Brunshogle, in the paroch of Killearn, being one hundred and seventy-three pound of valuation.

MOSES BUCHANAN of GLINS, sixtie-six pound valuation.

ALEXANDER WRIGHT of PUSIDE, one hundred and foure pound and six shilling and eight-penny Scot valuation. Walter Monteath of Kyp, three hundred pounds valuation.

JAMES KEY, portioner of ENBLIOY, for sixtiey-six pond Scots valuation.

ROBERT GALBRAITH, portioner of EDINBELLY, for thritie-three pound Scots valuation.

ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN of CREMANAN, for my land of Cremanan, in the paroch of Balfron, and . . . being two hundred and sixty-eight pound of valuation.

Witnesses—William Johnstone, William M'Lea, Gilbert Cowan, Alexander Yuill, John Paterson, Robert Dunn, Walter Monteath, John Buchanan, Thomas Wright, Archibald Leckie, Walter Monteath, Alexander Wright, Archibald Leckie, Walter Monteath, Walter Monteath, Robert Farrie, James Ure, John Buchanan, and James MacGrime.

Da. Graeme, Witness.
John Smith, Witness.

JA. GRAHAME.
JOHN GRAHAM

It would appear from the following letter that this contract was not disadvantageous to Mr. Graham :—

“Ballikinrain, May 25, 1743.

“SIR,—Notwithstanding of the contract entered into betwixt several gentlemen of the shires of Stirling and Dumbarton, you, and I, anent keeping of a watch, whereby you was to pay yearly four *per cent.* of valuation ; yet I now agree with you for three *per cent.* for the lands you have contracted for ; and that the first term of Whitsunday, and in time coming during the standing of the contract. And I am, Sir, your most humble servant,

“J. A. GRAHAME.”

The following receipt granted by Mr. Grahame of Glengyle to Mr. Robert Galbraith, for the payment of “watch-money” is probably the last of its kind. In the beginning of the following year (1745), the train of the rebellion was being laid. In July, Prince Charles had actually embarked for Scotland ; and by Martinmas, Glengyle’s hands must have been filled with more important concerns :—

Hill, 12th Dec., 1744.

“Then received by me, James Grahame of Glengyle, from Robert Galbraith, portioner of Enbelly, fourtie shillings Scots money in full payt. of all bygone watch money due to me out of his portion of Enbelly preceeding Martimmas last as witness my hand place and date above written.

“J. A. GRAHAME.”

There is marked on the back in the same hand,

“Recit Glengyle to Galbraith.”

THE COVENANTERS.

THE SOLEMN LEAGUE AND COVENANT.

THE parishioners of Kippen were singularly loyal to the National Covenant, that Covenant which consisted in an oath to establish and preserve civil and religious liberty.

In 1660, Charles II. was restored to the throne, and nowhere was there greater rejoicing than in his ancient Kingdom of Scotland. Soon, however, the King and his counsellors showed their determination to sweep away all that had been gained by the Church of Scotland in the second Reformation from 1638 onward. The Solemn League and National Covenant were condemned as unlawful oaths, copies of these being torn by the common hangman at the Cross of Edinburgh on May 29, 1661, and the King issued a mandate that the Church of Scotland be restored to its rightful government by bishops. The Presbyterian Church, by the King's fiat, thus became an Episcopal Church, and the ministers were ordered to attend punctually the Bishops' Diocesan Courts, under pain of being punished as contemners of the King's authority. Most of them, however, especially in the west and south, ignored the summons, and rather devoted themselves to their pastoral work with all the more earnest diligence, not knowing how soon they might be separated from their flocks. That time soon came, and on the first day of November, 1662, four hundred churches in Scotland were shut. The churches were now empty, the bishops having had no suitable men to fill them; as, however, filled they must be, such men as could be found were pressed into the service. Burnet, an Episcopalian bishop himself, and a man who had the best opportunities of estimating their character, says of the successors of the ejected ministers in the new Episcopalian clergy, "They were the worst preachers I ever heard; they were ignorant

to a reproach, and many of them were openly vicious. They were a disgrace to their orders and their sacred function."

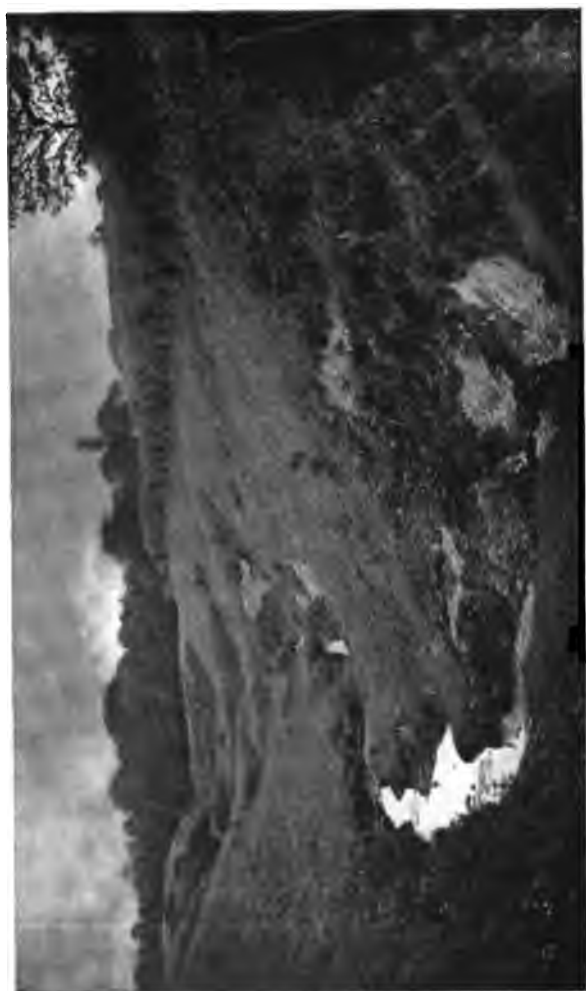
THE "CURATE" AND THE CRYING CHILDREN.

The ejected ministers were in many cases men eminent alike for their gifts, their attainments, and their godliness; so it may be understood that the congregations could ill bear with those who supplanted pastors whom they loved and revered. They generally gave the new clergy the name of "curates." On their part many complaints were made that the people would not come to hear them.

Some humorous stories are told in this connection, and M'Crie, in his "Story of the Scottish Church," relates the following incident:—"The 'curate,' annoyed at seeing so many empty seats in his church, sent a threatening message to the women of the parish, that if they did not come to church he would inform against them. Next Sabbath a number did put in an appearance, each with a child in her arms. The clergyman had not proceeded far with the service when one child began to cry, then another, and another, till the whole joined in chorus, and the voice of the preacher was drowned in the universal squall. He stormed and cursed, but was told it was his own fault, for they could not leave the children at home."

LOVE FOR FORMER MINISTER.

If, however, the people were unwilling to hear the "curates," or receive their ministrations, they were quite as eager, if they had the opportunity, to listen to any of the old ministers, there being still a few who were unmolested in their work, those in particular who had been ordained before 1649. A large number of the ejected ministers, too, continued to exercise the functions of their ministry as best they could, preaching and baptising in private houses at first, and later at field meetings, which came to be called "Conventicles."



THE PREACHING HOWE, KIPPEN.

"THE PREACHING HOWE."

WHEN these conventicles first began to be held, they were attended by great multitudes, coming peaceably and unarmed to hear in some lonely glen the Word of God preached by one of those men whom they loved for their fidelity. The parishioners of Kippen had by this time become conspicuous in their attachment to the Solemn League and Covenant, and, in 1675, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed in the night time to a very numerous meeting. Dr. Campbell, in his "Statistical Account," gives Arnbeg as the place of meeting, and according to others, it was at a place called "The Preaching Howe," a secluded dell within the Barony of Arnmanuel, but at no great distance from Arnbeg. Local tradition, however, selects that glen on the opposite side of the road, a short distance west from the mill dam of Broich, as "The Preaching Howe."

One can fancy the scene in this secluded spot, where a great number could be so placed as easily to hear the speakers. It is a green and pleasant howe, or hollow, with a rippling brook meandering through its centre; on either side is a spacious brae covered with delightful pastures, and rising with a gentle slope to a goodly height. It is related that meetings were held frequently at this place, and that soon after 1670, when Curate Young was settled in the parish, "troubles first began to be experienced in Kippen, Port of Menteith, and Gargunnock, connected with the preaching of the Gospel. Mr. John Law, Mr. Thomas Forrester, who had left the Episcopal Communion, and others, were in the habit of preaching to the people, and went so far as to ordain clandestinely Mr. John King, who afterwards suffered martyrdom, at Port of Menteith; Mr. Archibald Riddell, third son of Sir Walter Riddell of that ilk, at Kippen; and Mr. George Barclay at Gargunnock."

The late Rev. Patrick T. Muirhead, minister of the Free Church, Kippen, in a published lecture on "The

Covenanters," mentions one John Knox, who zealously helped forward the work of the Lord at these meetings, and explains that this John Knox was said to have been of the same family as his great namesake. The Reformer was always spoken of as a descendant of the family of Knox of Ranfurly, in Renfrewshire, who acquired the lands of Arnmanuel and Ladylands, in this parish, about the middle of the century, where they remained for some time, ultimately disposing of their Kippen property to Graham of Gartmore.

URE OF SHIRGARTON.

FROM what follows we can have no doubt that one of Knox's principal coadjutors in those conventicles would be the proprietor of the almost adjoining estate of Shirgarton, James Ure. To the parishioners of Kippen all that concerns his sufferings and contendings has a special interest, inasmuch as he was a native of their parish, and a resident proprietor in it up to the day of his death, and the name of "Ure of Shirgarton" is still fragrant in local traditions. For several years before the stirring events of 1679, field meetings were apparently not uncommon in Kippen and neighbouring parishes, and many persons were apprehended and sent to Stirling, Glasgow, and other places. One Donald Connell, Buchlyvie, is referred to in particular, his crime being that he had been at a preaching by Mr. Riddell at Loch Leggan. Then James Ure of Shirgarton is recorded to have left the Episcopal communion, joined the persecuted ministers, had his children baptised by them, and as having so exposed himself to the rage of the Government and hatred of Mr. Robert Young, the curate, "who was much blamed as an intelligencer against him and others."

A SKIRMISH WITH SOLDIERS.

An incident is worthy of mention here. Some soldiers in disguise were sent from Stirling in search of

Mr. John King, and succeeded in apprehending him at Cardross-in-Menteith. The alarm was quickly spread through Menteith and Kippen, and the people rose to the rescue. The soldiers thought it was the safest way "to take him east of the mosses." However, his friends were beforehand, and encountered the party in "the moss beneath Boquhapple," below the village of Thornhill, and rescued their prisoner. We are told one Norrie was killed in the action by the soldiers.

"INDULGED" MINISTERS.

This little encounter may be taken as foreshadowing what was to come, but the ruling powers thought fit to try the effect of a small concession, so a certain number of ministers were, to use their term, "indulged," i.e., they were allowed, on certain conditions, to exercise the functions of the ministry in limited districts, and these numbered, according to Woodrow, forty-two ministers in all. The "indulgence" was clogged with conditions with which the more decided Presbyterians could not comply; in particular, those who accepted it acknowledged the King's authority in matters of religion, and this, instead of being a boon, was rather hurtful to the Covenanters, and became the occasion of disastrous dissension and division. The "indulgence" of a few did not put a stop to the field meetings, and while the authorities were bent on suppressing them, those who attended began to take measures for their defence by going armed to the meetings. The authorities could not well suffer such a state of things to continue, especially when it is said that accounts were reaching the Council of conventicles attended by as many as five hundred armed men.

Archbishop Sharpe, on 1st May, 1679, submitted an edict exceeding in severity anything that had hitherto been thought of, making it lawful for any officer, down to a sergeant, to kill, without trial, any man he should meet having arms if he supposed he was going to or from a conventicle.

OPEN DEFIANCE.

Shortly afterwards, while travelling to St. Andrews, Sharpe was overtaken by a party of six Covenanters, and killed. Those immediately concerned in the deed made their escape to the west. It is said their leader, John Balfour of Kinloch—commonly known as “Burley”—came to Shirlarton, and passed a night with Ure. In Fifeshire there were few Covenanters, and Burton, in his “History,” remarks that Balfour, when he and his friends “got as far west as Kippen, in Stirlingshire, found themselves amongst the honest folk.” There can be little doubt that the murder of Sharpe hastened on a struggle which was sooner or later inevitable. The assassination took place on May 3, 1679, and on the 29th, a party of eighty armed men, headed by Robert Hamilton, younger son of Sir Thomas Hamilton, of Preston, marched to Rutherglen, where, as usual on the anniversary of the Restoration, bonfires were burning in honour of the day. These they speedily extinguished, and a declaration was affixed to the Cross, condemning all the proceedings of Government since the restoration of Charles. This was followed up by burning the obnoxious Acts at the Cross—“as our enemies,” they said, “have perfidiously and blasphemously burned our holy covenants, through several cities of these covenanted kingdoms.”

DRUMCLOG.

When the Rutherglen declaration was reported in Edinburgh, Claverhouse was forthwith despatched to the west with a body of dragoons, armed with unlimited powers to kill and destroy all whom he should find with arms. Coming quickly to Hamilton, he seized Mr. John King, previously rescued at Boquhapple, and about fourteen others. Next day, Sabbath, June 1, a large conventicle had assembled at the foot of Loudon Hill. Claverhouse heard of it, and set out with his troops,

carrying his prisoners along with him. When the watchmen on the outlook reported that the dragoons were coming, the armed men, to ensure the safety of the rest, resolved to advance to meet the foe. This they did, forming up at a place called Drumclog, with a swamp in front. Claverhouse urged his men across the morass, but "Burley" and Cleland, a young man of eighteen, were before them, and splashing through the bog, they were presently in a hand to hand conflict with the troops, who were thrown into confusion, two of their officers and about forty men being killed. Claverhouse had his horse killed under him by a thrust from a pitchfork, and with difficulty escaped with his life. He and his scattered forces, leaving their prisoners behind them, were fain to save themselves by a speedy flight. The Covenanters had only one man killed on the field, but five died of their wounds.

A victory had been won, but now came the question, Should they, as formerly, disperse, ready to meet again at conventicles, or keep together? Blood had been spilled, and well they knew Claverhouse would be eager for revenge. They thought it best to keep together, and defend themselves as best they could. The tidings spread far and wide that the west country men were up in arms, and soon the news came to Kippen.

URE JOINS THE WEST MEN.

The Laird of Shirgarton buckled on his armour, mounted on his white horse, and took the road to Glasgow. We have it on evidence that, when he was tried in absence in 1682, William Millar, boatman at the Ford of Frew, deponed that, "about a fortnight before the defeat of Bothwell Bridge, he saw James Ure of Shirgarton, whom he knew very well, riding to Glasgow on a white horse, armed with sword and pistols, and a party of the rebels, consisting of twenty or thereby, at his back on foot; some of them had swords and guns, and some not." Gathering thus the men of the district around him, he

was not forgetful of what would be needed for the fray. In Ure's narrative, printed at length in M'Crie's "Memoirs of Veitch, Bryson," etc., he tells us, "I brought upwards of two stone of powder from home with me, and I did take the lead, and melted same, and cast the balls, when we lay in the Monk-lands; so we were best provided of them all. There were few in the army that had powder and shot to shoot twice." In addition to those who came with him, Ure's company was soon joined by many more of their countrymen, who all acknowledged him as their captain. They now numbered about two hundred, "most of them well armed, two parts with guns, a third part with pikes."

An army of between four and five thousand assembled, but instead of preparing for battle, valuable time was wasted in endless controversies and disputations, the principal matters in dispute relating to the "indulgence" and the "indulged," and to the owning or disowning of King Charles, and one cannot but sympathise with Ure when he said to them—"They were more taken up with other men's sins than their own, and it was our duty to begin with ourselves."

Ure says, "we entreated them to go against the enemy, and let all debates alone till a free Parliament and a General Assembly;" and Hamilton having made an intemperate rejoinder, Ure, in his narrative, says—"I arose and told Robert Hamilton that I had a wife and five children, and that I had a little bit of an estate, and that I came to hazard all and my life to get the yoke of Prelacy and supremacy removed; but for aught that I saw, they intended to tyrannise over our consciences, and lead us to a worse snare nor we were into, and for my part I would fight till the last drop of my blood before I went one step-length with them."

BOTHWELL BRIG.

His counsel seemed to prevail at the time, but subsequent events showed there was no real agreement. Passing over those fruitless disputations on which so much precious

time was wasted, we come to the 22nd of June—a Sabbath morning. By this time the King's army, under the command of the Duke of Monmouth and Buccleuch, had reached the banks of the Clyde, near Bothwell. The Covenanters held the opposite bank, the river being crossed by a narrow bridge with a gateway in the centre, called Bothwell Bridge. Some attempts were made to negotiate, but the only terms the Duke could offer were—to lay down their arms and trust in his mercy, and they should be favourably dealt with. "Hamilton," says Ure, "laughed, and said, 'And hang next.'"

Then the fight began. The bridge was the key of the position. The Royal army brought five cannon into action, while the Covenanters had only one. But a company of resolute men, under Hackston of Rathillet, were there to defend the passage, and they were at once joined by Ure and his company. The enemy's fire was returned, and a volley of musketry must have done great execution, for Ure says, "they fled, both horse and foot. If we had had any person to have commanded us, we might have gained their cannon; but if I should have gone without command, and if they turned on me, none would have relieved me." So finding they were not pursued, the Royalists came back and manned their guns, firing them, "but did no damage." Ure tells us, "I was necessitated to retire, so I turned back over the bell of the bræ; and as I saw none coming to assist, I was forced to retire."

COVENANTERS ROUTED.

The Duke's army numbered fifteen thousand; that of the Covenanters, according to Ure's estimate, never exceeded four thousand foot and two thousand horse, but he adds that "if we had agreed we would have been triple that number. The left wing fled at once; the right stood a little, but not so long as to put on a pair of gloves; so they all fled, and I turned with all my speed; indeed I was beholden to my horse." It appears that a faithful

servant had been careful to have his horse in readiness. From the time the fight began at the bridge to the flight was about eight hours. The loss of the Covenanters at the bridge was very trifling; Ure gives it as not ten men. At the final assault a number must have fallen; and Claverhouse and his dragoons, eager to revenge their defeat at Drumclog, killed many in the pursuit.

Four hundred Covenanters are said to have been killed in the battle, and twelve hundred surrendered as prisoners. To speak of the hardships endured by these prisoners, among whom were some Kippen men, confined for five months, day and night, in Greyfriars Churchyard in Edinburgh, is too gruesome a tale. As to how it fared with Ure immediately after the battle—how he escaped the pursuers, what course he took, or how he got back to Kippen, we have been unable to trace.

URE'S POSSESSIONS FORFEITED.

It would appear that shortly after the suppression of the rising, Ure was summoned by a lion-herald sent to his house; and on his non-appearance, witnesses were called to prove that he had been with the rebels, and then sentence of forfeiture of all his goods was passed. After his forfeiture, his rents and movables were seized; upwards of thirty times parties of soldiers came in quest of him, and remained for weeks in his house, and among his tenants. A reward of £100 was ultimately offered to any one "who will bring in the said James Ure, dead or alive."

On the 9th of January, 1682, Ure, along with a number of others—several from Kippen parish—was formally tried (in absence). The indictment charged him and the rest with the murder of two soldiers, names not given, drags in the murder of Archbishop Sharpe, the Sanquhar Declaration, and the affair at Aird's Moss, with which Ure had no connection whatever. Millar, the boatman at Ford of Frew, was the only witness cited against him, and we have already referred to his evidence. The Lords

on 17th January following found the libel fully proved, and adjudged him with the others "to be executed to the death as traitors, when they shall be apprehended; their names, memory, and honours to be extinct—that their posterity may never have place nor be able to bruik or joyse any honour, office, &c., and to have forfeaulted all and sundry their lands, &c."

The Privy Council had received from Curate Young a list of heritors in Western Stirlingshire who had been at Bothwell Bridge. Here we find James Ure, of Shirgarton; David Forrester, of Kilmore (Culmore is in Gargunnoch parish); Alexander Buchanan, Fiar of Buchlyvie; Donald Connel, portioner of Buchlyvie; Walter Leckie, of May (Mye is in the parish of Drymen); Thomas Miller there; Arthur Dugald, Arnmanuel; John Dugald, his son; and John M'Kenzie there.

The diligent search made for Ure led him for a time to seek concealment and safety in Ireland. During his absence his wife and family were exposed to much suffering. His corn and other goods, and sometimes those of his tenants, were wasted by the soldiery. The tenants durst not pay the rents, chiefly grain, but they kept them up, sending the lady secret information. She, again, employed some trusty persons to receive and remove them, as if for themselves. Ultimately they were conveyed to her for the support of the family. Ure's friends, however, while he was in Ireland, bought up his forfeiture in order that his family could remain in the house.

CONVENTICLES STILL HELD.

Even at this time conventicles were not quite put down in the parish of Kippen. On June 9, 1682, we find Mr. Archibald Riddell, already mentioned, who had been allowed out of prison for a short period to see his dying mother, accused of breaking his confinement by going to the parish of Kippen, keeping conventicles, and baptising children, for which offences he was sent to the Bass Rock.

A service was also held at Gribloch, where many were apprehended, among them the old lady of Shirgarton, James Ure's mother, then above seventy years of age, and a son of hers, Mr. Peter Rollo; also, Margaret Macklinn, wife to Arthur Dougall, miller at Newmiln, a very godly man. They were carried to Glasgow Tolbooth, and crowded together in the prison. Ure's mother fainted in the throng, and petitions for liberty, or leave at least to be allowed to the door for air, were stubbornly refused, and she died amongst the crowd. The rest of the prisoners were carried to Dunnottar Castle, where they were confined some time, and afterwards several of them were shipped to be sent abroad, among these being Margaret Philip, wife of Donald Connel, but who was landed at Leith by the skipper, he having been previously bribed for this purpose.

URE RETURNS FROM IRELAND.

After Ure had been six months in Ireland, the longing to see his wife and family was too much for him, and he returned to Scotland, and made his way home by night. His wife contrived to keep him so closely concealed that months passed before anyone suspected he was in the country. When it leaked out that Ure had returned to Shirgarton, the most strenuous efforts were made to apprehend him. He found concealment for a considerable time in that thickly wooded dell in the upper part of Boquhan Glen, which is locally known as "the Kippen Trossachs," where it would not be difficult for one acquainted with the place to find tolerably secure shelter. His wife frequently kept him company in his hiding-place, and many nights they passed there during the severe winter of 1685. Before daybreak he used to retire to the house of a friendly tenant of his own, one Duncan Chrystal, of Muirend, and hid during the day in a place made in the "corn mow" in the barn. Muirend is quite close to the upper part of Boquhan Glen, a solitary place

enough, now included in the estate of Wright Park, but at that time forming part of Ure's estate, in the barony of Shirgarton. The old farmhouse of Muirend was inhabited within the last fifty years, and, as it was one of the most old-fashioned "biggin's" in the district, in all probability it was the identical house occupied by Duncan Chrystal almost two hundred and twenty years ago.

MRS. URE ARRESTED.

Mrs. Ure, whose affections led her to share the sufferings of her husband, returned occasionally to her home to visit her family; and as the authorities could not lay hands on the laird, a party of soldiers was sent to apprehend the lady "for going to conventicles and conversing with her husband, now intercommuned." She was carried, with a child on her breast, to Stirling. After having been kept there fourteen days, she was taken to Edinburgh, and lodged in the Canongate Tolbooth, remaining in that prison for other fourteen days. Thereafter she was summoned to appear at the Council, but happily met with a friend who interested himself in her behalf—Blairdrummond, chancellor to the Earl of Perth—and she was allowed to go without appearing before the Council.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

During these years, Ure made many hairbreadth escapes, and numerous stories regarding them lived long in local tradition. Rev. P. T. Muirhead relates the following: A party of dragoons had been sent from Glasgow to apprehend Ure. Coming over the moor by Campsie and Fintry, they had halted for refreshments at the little wayside inn at Lernoek Toll. It so happened that the girl in waiting had been a servant at Shirgarton. Something said by the soldiers led her to conclude that they were in pursuit of her old master, and while they were

carousing she managed quietly to steal out, and made all the speed she could over the four miles or so to Shirgarton House, where she burst into the house with the cry, "The soldiers are coming." Fortunately, the attractions of the little hostelry had detained them at Lernoek, but she was none too soon, for, as the story goes, just as she spoke they heard the sound of horses galloping along the road above the village of Kippen. It was late in summer or early in autumn—at any rate, the tall corn was standing. Ure had just time to rush from the house and lie down among "the vittal" (*i.e.*, the long corn), when the troopers arrived, but missed their prey.

Another story is that he was one day in a field near the house, with one or two of his servants, some horses also being in the field. Looking up, he espied a party of troopers making directly for them. "I am catcht this time," exclaimed Ure. One of the servants said, "Maybe we can do something for ye yet," and forthwith flung himself on the back of one of the horses, and set off as hard as he could make it gallop. The soldiers fell into the snare, and gave chase with all speed to the man who so generously acted as a decoy to save his master. Thus they were drawn off, and Ure had time to find a place of concealment.

Sometimes he found shelter in a friendly house. It is said he frequently used to dream that the soldiers were coming; that, awaking, he got up and fled with all haste. Usually it did happen that they actually came, and sometimes found the bedclothes still warm, when they would rage exceedingly, and even carry off the master of the house a prisoner with them.

MORE SETTLED TIMES.

At last the final indulgence, or toleration, came in 1687, the last year of the reign of King James. This indulgence was meant, as it was well understood, mainly for behoof of the Roman Catholics, but as it was no

longer burdened with the old conditions, all Presbyterians had the benefit for a time.

Ure's troubles were now well nigh over. The Presbyterian people of Kippen built for themselves a church on the eastern boundary of the parish, near to the old mansion house of Glentirran, which stood about 200 yards south-west from the old bridge of Boquhan. Ure was active, along with Boquhan and Glentirran, in this work. Mr. George Barclay, for whom a good manse was also provided, was settled as their minister; nearly the whole population attached themselves to his ministry, "none staying with the curate but a few Jacobite lairds and their adherents."

At the time of the Revolution we find Ure again in arms, and several of his old associates with him, guarding the Convention of Estates in Edinburgh. In due course his forfeiture was declared to be null, and his name stands in the records among others who had been unjustly forfeited, "yet he behaved in gratitude to pay to his friends the sum they advanced in kindness to his family in buying his forfeiture before." We next find him holding a commission in Argyle's regiment, and continuing with it till the troubles were over. During his absence, Cannon and Buchan, with a party of King James' adherents, paid Kippen a visit, and some of Ure's goods, and those of his tenants, were carried off. They also attacked his house, "which," according to one account, "his lady did manfully keep out against them."

DEATH OF URE.

After these events Ure lived for many years in peace. He survived the rebellion in 1715, and saw the providence of God in making some drops of the cup his persecutors had meted out to him pass over to themselves. He continued faithful to his principles against the Jacobite lairds and the curates to the last, and with them he had many encounters. He was kind to the sick. After all

his troubles he died in peace in his own house at Shirgarton in 1716, and was buried in the churchyard of Kippen.

A GOOD MAN AND TRUE.

While the graveyard was under repair in 1874, the Rev. Mr. Wilson caused to be inserted into the wall, immediately opposite the old, massive, moss-grown table tombstone, a simple slab bearing the following words:—
“The burial place of James Ure, the Covenanter.” Ure was much lamented by all the good people who had been acquainted with him, and although holding a position subordinate to the leading Reformers in the stirring times in which he lived, yet he was a good man and true, under many trials faithful to the principles which he held to be sacred, and to the confession of his faith, for which he was ready to suffer the loss of all, counting not his life dear to him.

The old mansion house of Shirgarton, where Ure lived, was taken down in 1845 by Mr. Leckie Ewing of Arngomery, and occupied the site of the present farm steading of Shirgarton. The estate continued in possession of the family of Ure till some time after the middle of the eighteenth century.

GALBRAITHS OF BLACKHOUSE AND LITTLEKERSE.

IT may be interesting to mention that, though Ure has now no representative in the lands of Shirgarton, one of the heritors of the parish, proprietor of a neighbouring estate, is a descendant of the family, viz., William Galbraith, Esq., of Blackhouse, and some interesting heir-looms of the family are in his possession.

Mary Ure, granddaughter of the Covenanter, married Dr. Duncan Glasford. Christian, their second daughter, married Thomas Littlejohn, Provost of Stirling, and left a family. One of their daughters, Christian, married William Galbraith, Esq., of Blackhouse and Littlekerse, town clerk of Stirling, whose grandson, William, is thus the great-great-grandson of Mary Ure. A younger daughter, Helen, married Captain Hugh Pearson, R.N. son of Mr. Pearson of Kippenross; Katherine, a third daughter, married Ebenezer Connal, son of Provost Connal, of Stirling.

SHIRGARTON MANSION HOUSE.

THE present house of Shirgarton was built and occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Glasford, probably not before 1750. It is now the property of J. A. Harvie Brown, of Dunipace and Shirgarton. The Rev. P. T. Muirhead gives the following abbreviated translation of a charter in the possession of Robert Leckie Ewing, Esq.:—

“Charter by John Earl of Mar, as superior of the lands, granting, confirming, and of new giving, to James Ure and Christina Wryt, his spouse, all and whole the lands of Sheirgartan, with the houses, etc., lying within the stewartry of Monteith and County of Perth: which lands formerly belonged to William Leckye, vassal or feuar of Poldar, to be holden in feu by all the righteous and old measures and boundaries, for payment yearly of (tredecem merearm

et octodecem denarium usualis monete regni Scotiae) thirteen merks and eighteen pennies Scots (equal to 14s. 6½d. sterling) at the accustomed terms (viz., Pentecostes et Sancti Martini) by equal portions.

"Signed and the Earl's ain proper seal appended at Holyrood House 23 Nov., 1619, before these witnesses: Sir John Murray of Touchadame, Bart.; Alexander Leckye *de ibid*; Adam Shields, writer's clerk; Alexander Stirling, servant to the said Sir John Murray of Touchadame; James Williamson, writer in Stirling."

THE BEDDAL'S HALF-ACRE.

A CURIOUS and somewhat interesting incident associated with Ure is as follows:—Curate Young had a piece of Ure's ground, called "the beddal's half-acre," annexed to his glebe, while he had no access to appear to defend his right. One morning in harvest he gathers his tenants, shears the ground, and leads home the grain to his own house; but the Government made him pay well for it. The office of "beddal," both in pre-Reformation times and during the periods of Episcopal supremacy subsequent to the Reformation, was very different in point of importance from the office that goes by that name now.

Mr. Wilson gives an interesting account of the beddalship of Kippen, as found in the register of the Diocesan Synod of Dunblane, which reads—

"At Dunblane, the 12th October, 1680, it being represented to the Bishope and Synod that James Ure, called of Shirlarton, who pretends right to the beddalship of the Kirk of Kippen, has not only been a notorious separatist himself, these many years bygone, but also an intolerable instigator of others to the same, and a constant fomentor of the present schism in the Church, a disowner of the ordinances and minister in his parochie, and a person active in the late rebellion, declared rebel therefore, who lykwise will not be ruled himself, nor his substitutes by the minister and kirk-session in what concerns his office as beddal. Upon these and other considerations the Bishop and Synod doe declare the said beddalship vacant, and doe depose and discharge the said James Ure and any

of his substitutes whatsoever, deriving right from him, from exercising the said office in all time coming or uplifting the dues thereof, with certification of being proceeded against, conform to church order, hereby giving full power to the minister and kirk-session to choose, instale, and direct their own beddal, from this time forth, at their pleasure, and invest him in the dues belonging thereof."

It will be observed from the foregoing that the notice implies that the duties had been in whole or in part performed by substitutes. We also find it mentioned in connection with what is said about the "half-acre," that the dispute was renewed after the Revolution. There was a process against Ure by the Rev. Michael Potter, minister of Kippen. The Presbytery of Dunblane had designed as part of the glebe half-an-acre of Shirgarton's lands. Ure pled that his ground was not kirk-lands, but held feu of the Forresters of Kilmore. The Presbytery forthwith dispatches sheriff-officers, accompanied by soldiers, to deforce him from possession. It is related that the guid-wives of the tenants of Shirgarton turned out *en masse*, and with stones and other missiles drove off the officers and the soldiers.

CORONATION OF KING EDWARD VII.

LOCAL REJOICINGS.

ON the 9th of August, 1902, the inhabitants of Kippen and the surrounding district celebrated the coronation of King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra with an enthusiasm and display of loyalty which could not be surpassed. Union Jacks, Royal Standards, pennants of all sizes, and mottoes, floated from nearly every housetop, while arches and streamers crossed the streets at various points. From early dawn an unusual stir predominated, and the proceedings of the day began at eight o'clock with the church bells ringing out joyous peals for about an hour. At half-past ten the school children assembled at the Public School, and from thence marched with their teachers to the Parish Church, where, at eleven o'clock, a special coronation service was conducted by the Rev. J. G. Dickson, minister of the parish; Rev. H. W. Hunter, United Free Church; and the Rev. D. R. Kilpatrick, Dunallan.

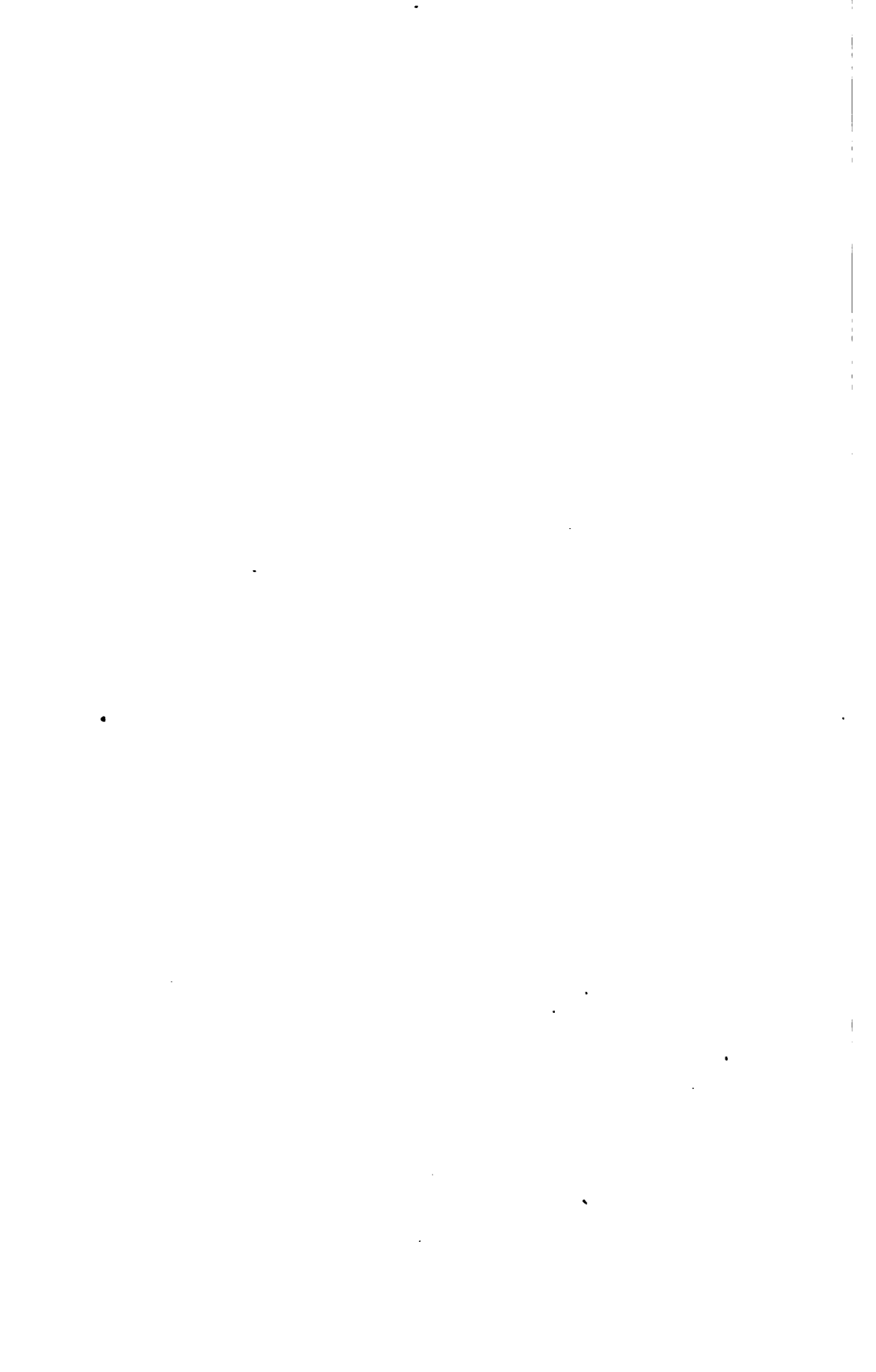
On leaving the church, the children and adults formed into procession, and, headed by the local pipe band, marched through the village to Cauldhame, and then to the village recreation field, where, on arrival, all were entertained to refreshments. Immediately thereafter, each child, from the age of fourteen years to as many months, was presented with a handsome coronation medal, several ladies gracefully making the presentation. Stephen Mitchell, Esq., of Boquhan, made a short speech appropriate to the occasion, and called for three cheers for the King and Queen, which were heartily given. A long programme of sports was entered upon with much enthusiasm. The duties of chieftain of the sports were ably carried out by John Monteath, Esq., Wright Park, assisted by the Rev. J. G. Dickson, Rev. H. W. Hunter, and Mr. Paul, Glentirran, while the following acted as handicappers, starters, etc.:—Messrs. W. J. Buchanan, Forth Vineyard; John Robertson, Cairn

Cottage; David Welsh, Burnside; Andrew Kay, Little-kerse; Robert Dougall, Post Office; William M'Queen, Shingarton; William Chrystal, Oxhill; and William Dougall, Post Office.

A pleasing feature of the entertainment was the dancing by the adults, in real Scotch style, on the beautiful, smooth, green sward, to the inspiring strains of the pipes, the music being supplied by Messrs. Peter M'Cowan, Arngomery; James Duncanson, Larne Smithy; and Alexander Macdiarmid, Renton Cottage.

At the finish of the programme, Mr. Monteath, in a loyal and patriotic speech, said this was a fitting occasion for them to give expression to their thankfulness that His Majesty's life had been spared, and that he was now able to wear the crown, which was the symbol of the greatness, power, and splendour of the British Empire, and concluded his remarks by calling for three cheers for the King and Emperor, which were right loyally responded to. After singing "God save the King," the procession was again formed, and marched from the field to the Cross of the village, and there dispersed.

As twilight wore on, and the evening advanced, no abatement of the loyal enthusiasm took place. Several of the houses became brilliant with fairy and Chinese lanterns, while overhead wires, emblazoned with illuminations, from the premises of Mr. Gilchrist, clothier, and others, crossed the street. A novel and original bonfire was also erected by Mr. Gilchrist, who had constructed a huge iron frame similar in design to a sledge, on which was built a stack of all sorts of inflammable material to a height of ten feet. About ten o'clock in the evening this bonfire was lighted, a party of youths being told off to draw it through the principal streets of the village, and as it was drawn along, old and young gathered in its train. With the glare and the sparks flying, accompanied by the cheers of the children, the scene can be better imagined than described. A ball also took place in the Public Hall, and was carried on with much zest till about half-past eleven.







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